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Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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75¢

# 9th Circuit judges junk NMDC bid to intervene

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals denied yesterday an indigenous group's bid to intervene in a case that seeks to reverse an earlier federal court ruling that voters who are not of Northern Marianas descent must have the opportunity to vote on any initiative to amend Article 12.

Appeals court judges denied the Northern Marianas Descent Corp.'s petition as moot.

Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas and judges Consuelo M. Callahan and Mary H. Murgia issued the order.

The judges awarded John H. Davis Jr. attorney's fees and costs amounting to $16,237.

The Circuit judges ordered the Commonwealth Election

See NMDC on Page 4

## Car hits woman near Eucon

A woman was seriously hurt after a car hit her along Chalan Pale Arnold Road or Middle Road near the Eucon International University in Gualo Rai last Saturday morning.

The victim, a 26-year-old Chinese national, was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room for multiple abrasions and lacerations, with possible fractures on the left arm and hip. She also had injuries in her lower jaw, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde.

Gersonde said DFEMS received a call on Saturday at 8:38am from 911 dispatch about an auto-pedestrian accident on Middle Road.

An ambulance and a rescue vehicle from the Susupe Fire Station responded to the scene, where they found the woman lying on the ground.

Medics used a cervical

See CAR on Page 4

# Pathway's workout stations now ready

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A private company is done installing six workout stations and refurbishing four old ones along the Beach Road Pathway.

Bridge Capital LLC, in collaboration with the Saipan Mayor's Office and Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), led the project to install and refurbish workout sites along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway.

See PATHWAY on Page 4

Bridge Capital LLC chief operating officer Jody Jordahl, second from left, Saipan Mayor David Apatang, center, and Bridge Capital LLC chief financial officer Clay Crawford, far right, cut the ribbon to announe that the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway workout stations are now ready for public use.

ERWIN ENCINARES

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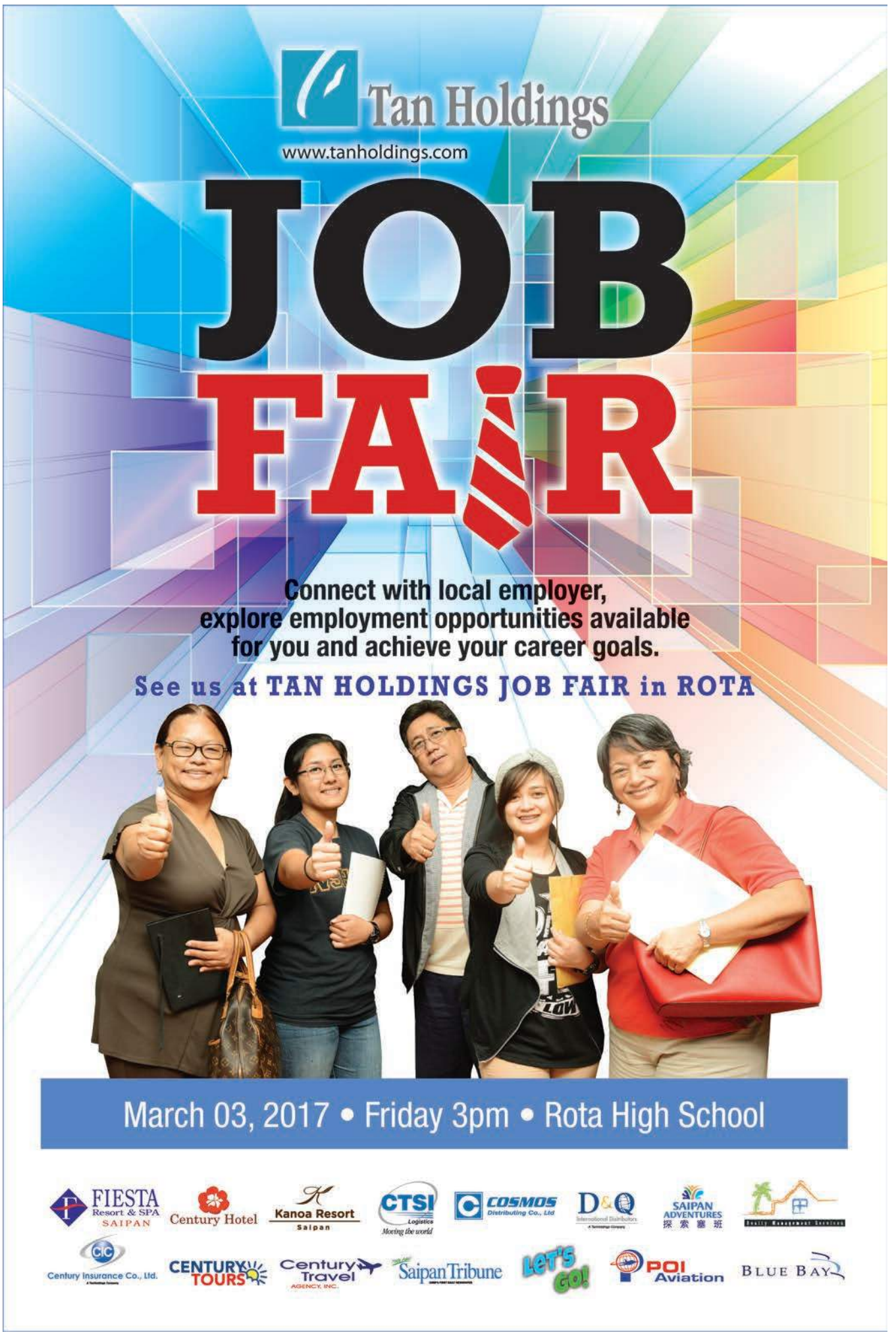
**HÅFA ADAI PLEDGE** GUAM VISITORS BUREAU

ABC Stores took the Håfa Adai Pledge on Feb. 28, 2017. The pledge is a cornerstone of the Guam Visitors Bureau's local community branding campaign. Standing, from left, Rebecca Camacho, regional merchandising manager (Guam and Saipan); Gina Kono, GVB acting director of global marketing; Dominic Reyes, area manager (Guam and Saipan); Aaron Gandaoli, district manager (Guam and Saipan); Rose Cunliffe, GVB acting president and CEO; William Nault, GVB board member; Bryan Lee, store manager, Store 509; Geri Koshiba, store manager, Store 511; and Noelani Yano, store manager, Store 506. Sitting, from left, Perlita Carlos, manager in charge, Store 505; Jesseca Rekemesik, store manager, Store 503; Arlene Cruz, store manager, Store 507; Marlon Tamayo, store manager, Store 512; Annabel Certeza, GVB administrative assistant - finance and administration; Elaine Pangelinan, GVB marketing coordinator (Hong Kong and Taiwan); and Nakisha Onedera Garrido, GVB marketing coordinator (China).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# Local

# Sex offender fit to stand trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sex offender Jose Albert Santos has been deemed competent to stand trial of sexually abusing a 15-year-old boy in 2014.

In a 16-page order on Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo determined that the 55-year-old Santos is able to understand the character and consequences of the proceedings against him and is able to assist in his defense.

There will be a status conference on April 4, 2017.

In 2014, the Office of the Attorney General charged Santos with three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Santos was arrested in October 2014 and was placed under house arrest after posting a $50,000 property bond.

The boy alleged that Santos had been sexually abusing him since September 2014 and would give him from $2 to $10 after each incident.

Santos' lawyer, assistant public defender Michael Sato, asked for a psychiatrist to evaluate his client's mental state for competency.

The competency hearing was held on Dec. 16 and 29, 2016. Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley argued for the government.

At the hearing, the prosecution presented Dr. Dennis Donnovan, an expert in clinical and forensic psychology. The defense called Dr. Martin Blinder, an expert in forensic psychiatry.

Both experts appeared via Skype and telephone.

The defense also called to the witness stand Santos' sister and third-party custodian to provide additional testimony.

Blinder said that Santos is not mentally competent to stand trial as he has an organic brain disease and suffers from mental retardation.

Donovan said that Santos suffers from significant hearing loss that may be responsible for a wide range of functional and language related deficits but he did not appear to have cerebral deficits nor is he mentally retarded. He found that Santos is competent to stand trial.

In his ruling, Govendo gave more weight to Donovan's opinion.

Govendo said Donovan's evaluation was conducted over a longer period of time; he was recommended by the attorney general of Hawaii as one of the leading experts in his field; although he testified that this was his first time providing services to the Commonwealth, he has been qualified as an expert in forensic psychology in all of the courts in Hawaii.

# Confusion arises in govt employees' salary hike

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several members of the House of Representatives will be meeting with Office of Personnel Management director Isidro Seman and other agency officials today in the hopes of ironing out the confusion brought by differing interpretation of the salary hike law, Public Law 19-83.

That law set a new base salary schedule for classified civil service government employees and increased the salary ceiling for classified civil service government employees.

It also increased the compensation of the governor, lieutenant governor, and members of the Legislature but this section is on hold after the Office of the Attorney General filed a lawsuit against it.

Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. (R-Saipan) set the meeting with OPM at 9:30am. He called OPM's attention after some civil service employees approached him on how the salary increase is being implemented at the department and division levels.

"There are a lot of issues and concerns regarding PL 19-83 and how it is being implemented to the department level. We're just trying to get some clarification. There has been some sort of confusion. I guess there are some loopholes in how it was implemented," said Sablan.

"We just want clarification and to fix the problems, because it is not fair to some. Imagine, if we came in at the same time but because you're step 12 and I'm not, you're going to get retroactive pay and I won't. We're just trying to fix this to be fair to all."

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee chair, said that OPM has provided new information on the salary adjustments stated in PL 19-83 for civil service employees.

"The legislation, which was a product of the 19th Legislature, was formulated pursuant to figures provided by the Executive Branch, so we are concerned and eager to find out what led to the discrepancy in the needed funding," Demapan said.

"Nonetheless, once we are furnished with this new information, I don't see any issue with regards to acting on necessary legislation to correct this deficiency," he added

Sablan echoed Demapan, adding they need to clarify how the law is being implemented and interpreted, to see if the Legislature will be obliged to pass a measure to fix it in order to be fair to all civil service employees.

"We need to clarify how it is being implemented and interpreted at the department or division levels. There are different interpretations by OPM on what is the intention and purpose of the Legislature on PL 19-83. We need to [have] the same mindset," added the former Veterans Affairs director.

Sablan said a lot of government employees approached him and raised their concerns. "The law was established to retroactively pay employees who were frozen at Step 12. That's why we are trying to get clarification on the implementation of the 5-percent increase."

"Is it across the board, meaning those not only at pay level 12 and those that have been stuck where they're at and why can't we move them up where they need to be at what pay level? And maybe, depending on funding availability, we can reimburse them or retroactively pay them.

If not, at least put them at the right salary or pay scale where they need to be."

He added that most civil servants stayed with their respective agencies, departments, and divisions when the government implemented the austerity measure, where operations were cut to 72 hours and then to 62 hours. "These people stayed and continued to serve. And when they lifted the austerity measure they only got one step level increase."

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# Acting DOC chief: Prison needs realignment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"I will finish the things where I left out," according to newly appointed Department of Corrections Commissioner Lino Tenorio.

In an interview yesterday, Tenorio said hearing it from the outside and seeing it for himself firsthand enabled him to notice the many things that his predecessors deviated from the actual DOC standing operating procedures.

Tenorio

He promised to fix the things that need fixing and run the department the way it supposed to be run.

"This is a state-of-the-art prison facility and I want to keep it up at that level," said Tenorio, who was the commissioner when the $20.9-million prison in Susupe began operations in 2008.

Tenorio said his predecessors run DOC differently from what he had started. He did not elaborate.

"I will go back to the basics," he added.

Tenorio said he is honored when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed him and he is confident that the Senate will confirm him.

Tenorio replaced Georgia Cabrera, who is now the acting director for civil detainees at DOC.

He said he would go back and see where things might have changed since he left in March 2009.

Tenorio said he, DOC director Greg Castro, and some of the staff got everything together to be able to effectively run the state-of-the-art prison. He said it requires correctional officers to be intelligent enough to absorb the standard operating procedures every time they clock in.

Tenorio said he would fix whatever needs fixing for the betterment of the correctional officers as well as for the safety and security of the inmates and what rehabilitation programs and other community outreach programs they can implement.

Torres appointed Tenorio as the new DOC commissioner last Feb. 17.

Tenorio used to serve as deputy commissioner for operations at the Department of Public Safety. Then-governor Benigno R. Fitial appointed Tenorio as DOC commissioner in November 2006.

Fitial, however, terminated Tenorio in March 2009 when the latter announced his bid for mayor of Saipan as an independent candidate and not under the Covenant Party, among other reasons.

Tenorio's predecessors at DOC were Dolores M. Aldan, Ramon Manfas, Robert A. Guerrero, and Cabrera.

# NMI asks DC to help address workforce issues

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres renewed its plea to Washington, D.C. officials to help it address the ongoing workforce issues the CNMI is currently experiencing, a problem that could derail the economic gains of the Commonwealth.

Torres' chief of staff, Matthew Deleon Guerrero, made a case for this during the senior plenary session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas last Friday at the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

He told the group that attended the plenary session that the CNMI lacks the available U.S. labor force that would fuel the growing economy and help the Commonwealth succeed on its own. "As much as we would like it to be so, the numbers are just not there," he said.

"The CNMI does not have reasonable access to proven federal programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit that has proven itself to be one of the most effective policies within the federal government to alleviate poverty and incentivize workforce participation," he added.

Deleon Guerrero said the CNMI's economy experienced dramatic changes in the last couple of years. "The CNMI has undergone a remarkable economic resurgence that has brought about new businesses and investments."

"[This] created more opportunities for our residents and raised their standards of living. This is evident in the influx of new revenue, an increase in tourist arrivals, and improved financial security for both the government and the people we serve."

He added that the CNMI's growing economy would help build a sustainable future in one of the two U.S. island territories in the Western Pacific. "And central to that future are the issues of healthcare, debt management, and financial stability."

The healthcare sector, especially the CNMI's lone public hospital, is also affected by the labor shortage with an expected 85 nurses out of 180 forced to exit the CNMI due to the numerical cap on the CNMI-Only Transitional Nonimmigrant Worker visa program. Most of the nurses at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. are foreign guest workers who hold CW1 visas.

"The labor force issues we are experiencing which are highlighted by the shortage of skilled nurses in the [CNMI] is, in fact, broad reaching and has dramatic implications," said Deleon Guerrero.

"Despite diligent efforts to maintain their status, we stand to lose 39 nurses from our only hospital by October, unless swift action is taken. Such a loss would gravely impact our ability to provide essential medical services on Saipan and makes the task of meeting [Center for Medicaid Services] provider standards even more challenging."

Deleon Guerrero said that Public Law 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 that created the CW1 program, had a major impact on the hospital, which is experiencing a shortage of nurses and other healthcare providers. He added that CNMI officials continue to reach out to Congress and other officials of the current administration on these concerns.

# Guam Submarine Command adopts road

**MANGILAO, Guam**—Performance Monitoring Team detachment Guam, also known as PMT det Guam, formally adopted an access road to a cultural landmark in Guam on Feb. 17.

Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio, who chairs Guam's Islandwide Beautification Task Force, unveiled a Roadway Adoption Program sign at the entrance to the Marbo Cave access road and thanked the PMT det Guam sailors for their hard work over the past year.

"We've got great U.S. Navy members here today supporting our island and working to beautify the community," said Tenorio. "It sometimes means getting your hands dirty, not looking at a problem and just passing it by but doing something about it, which is what I really respect."

PMT det Guam sailors conduct cleanups twice a month at Marbo Cave's access road and work alongside Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 on other community relation events around Guam.

"The military is a part of the community," said Tenorio. "Every time a military member comes out here and acts above and beyond what is required for work, they are a good representation of the U.S., themselves, their family, and frankly, our military in general."

The 12 sailors assigned to PMT det Guam have invested more than 400 volunteer hours cleaning up trash and clearing brush since adopting the road in April 2016.

"Almost a year ago, we decided we wanted to invest some time into making Guam a more beautiful place," said Sonar Technician Submarine 1st Class Christopher Juroshek. "The access road to Marbo Cave was, to me, an obvious choice. We didn't want a typical road cleanup and picked this location due to its unique challenges."

The access road to Marbo Cave is just over a mile and a half long. In many places, the jungle has covered part of the two-way road, making it difficult for more than one car to drive at a time.

"I've been told more than a few times how much of a difference it makes each time we come out," said Juroshek. "People notice how much cleaner it is and how much easier it is to drive the road. It's a huge source of pride for our office."

Tenorio also presented PMT det Guam with a certificate of appreciation on Feb. 22 at The Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo Complex. Navy Operational Support Center Guam and the Guam Harmony Lions Club were also presented certificates during the ceremony.

# Training to increase honey production in Fiji

**LABASA, Fiji**—Lead beekeepers from Vanua Levu went through a weeklong training (Feb. 20-24) in an effort to revive Fiji's honey industry, which was devastated by Tropical Cyclone Winston.

This training was one of the recovery activities of the European Union-funded "Increasing Agricultural Commodities Trade" project, implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

The IACT project provided approximately FJD 4 million in recovery support, mainly focused on rebuilding and strengthening key value chains in the agriculture and aquaculture sectors.

The beekeeper training, facilitated by Fiji Beekeepers Association president John Caldeira, will hopefully help beekeepers restore and enhance their beehives to increase production and improve quality.

The training focused on bee biology and sociology and provided hands-on advice on bee grafting techniques.

"There are great opportunities within the realm of disaster risk reduction that aim at improving livelihoods, food and nutrition security but also offering ample opportunities for market driven resilience and value chain enhancement. The training provided to beekeepers is an excellent example of how this can be pursued," SPC Land Resources Division director Jan Helsen said.

To complement the training, beekeepers were provided with material to assist with re-establishing their farms.

The EU delegation for the Pacific, head of Cooperation, Christoph Wagner said: "Through a range of different initiatives the European Union has been proud to play an important role in Fiji's recovery process following the destruction caused by Winston one year ago. This very practical training and the equipment provided to over 200 bee farms will help beekeepers get back on their feet. The newly acquired skills will assist the farmers to increase the volume and quality of their production, and therefore income and resilience."

Prior to Winston, the local honey sector was estimated to be worth FJD 3.5 million and it was predicted to become one of Fiji's big earners in the agriculture sector in years to come.

Winston was a major setback to the development of the Fijian honey sector. A survey carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture found that the majority of Fijian bee farms lost some of their hives during the cyclone, causing a sharp drop in honey production in 2016.

"One of the major challenges to growing the honey industry, even before Winston, is the lack of technical knowledge and skills among our beekeepers. With this training, experienced beekeepers are taught the best methods of increasing the number of hives and how to maintain healthy bee colonies. The training was necessary, not only for recovery, but also to build a resilient honey sector that would strengthen the supply chain," Caldeira, said.

This was the second of two trainings. The first was carried out in Ba and was attended by lead beekeepers from Viti Levu. ***(SPC)***

## NMDC

*From Page 1*

Commission and its commissioners to pay the sum, $16,237, to Davis' lawyer, Jeanne H. Rayphand.

In December 2016, the Ninth Circuit judges affirmed U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's landmark decision in 2014.

In a 51-page decision issued in May 2014, Manglona ruled that "Northern Marianas descent"—as defined in Section 4 of Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution—is a racial classification. Under federal law, it may not serve as the basis for preventing otherwise qualified voters from voting on proposed amendments to Article 12, she said.

"Even if Northern Marianas descent were not a racial classification, it would be unconstitutional to deny non-NMDs the right to vote on Article 12 initiatives because the restriction is not narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling state purpose," Manglona had said.

Manglona issued the ruling in favor of Davis, a registered voter in the CNMI who sued the Commonwealth Election Commission, its chairperson and executive director, and then-CNMI governor Eloy S. Inos, so he could vote on any initiative to amend Article 12.

Article 12 restricts landownership in the CNMI to persons of NMD. Article 18 Section 5(c) prohibits qualified voters who are not NMDs from voting on Article 12 initiatives.

CEC and co-defendants, through the Office of the Attorney General, appealed Manglona's ruling to the Ninth Circuit.

NMDC, headed by the lieutenant governor's chief of staff, John D. Gonzales, filed petitions to intervene in Davis' lawsuit and seek a rehearing en back or by the full Ninth Circuit.

The NMDC stated that in an effort to present their profound reactions to this issue, NMDC members consider that it is vitally important to inform the government about this compelling issue and seek its support.

NMDC noted the "lack of action" by the Attorney General's Office, which decided not to challenge the Ninth Circuit ruling.

At the Ninth Circuit hearing, assistant attorney general Charles Edmond Brasington argued for CEC and co-defendants. Rayphand argued for Davis. Attorney Joseph Horey argued for the NMDC.

## CAR

*From Page 1*

collar and spine board to prevent any other further injuries to the victim.

Gersonde said the woman was hit by a white car that was heading south.

He said the woman had hit the front bumper and the passenger's side of the front windshield.

The report did not indicate whether the victim was crossing the road when the sedan struck her. The report also did not mention whether the driver of the car was arrested or not.

In July 2015, two Chinese women were seriously injured when a taxicab mowed them down near Eucon's gate. The taxicab was reportedly avoiding some pedestrians at the crosswalk. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

## PATHWAY

*From Page 1*

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang is grateful to Bridge Capital's contribution.

"It's a great help, especially for people who come out here and do their daily exercise and physical conditioning," he said.

The old workout stations were dilapidated and possible health hazards. The Saipan Mayor's Office asked Bridge Capital to replace the stations before accidents occur, Apatang said.

He urged the community to be gentle with the new equipment.

"Take care of [the workout stations], don't abuse it and don't try to break it. These things are here for the purpose of helping our physical conditioning, so please take care of it," he said.

Bridge Capital chief executive officer Jody Jordahl hopes the public would use the workout stations in the way they are intended, which is for working out.

"We hope people of the community treat it well so it lasts for several years and for other people to enjoy. [Bridge Capital] would also do its part [to] maintain the stations," said Jordahl.

Bridge Capital spent about $25,000 on this project.

According to Jordahl, Bridge Capital is also looking at a similar project near Suicide Cliff.

"There are some stations there that we saw, so that would be the next step," he said.

Jordahl said Saipan is improving, with the re-installation of lights at the Beach Road Pathway and the soon-to-open Puerto Rico Park. He said Bridge Capital is happy to be able to participate in the beautification of Saipan.

Stretching from Kilili Beach all the way to the Kristo Rai Parish, six workout machines would be maintained by Bridge Capital.

The workout machines consist of a log-hop station, bench-dip station, T-bar station, chin-up station, push-up station, and a parallel bar station, spread throughout the pathway.

**HÅFA ADAI PLEDGE** GUAM VISITORS BUREAU

Giftforia, Great National Insurance, GUD Munchies LLC, and SM Island took the Guam Visitors' Bureau's Håfa Adai Pledge on Feb. 27, 2017, at the Agana Shopping Center. From left, Charles McJohn, Agana Shopping Center assistant general manager; Ivan Valencia, Giftforia owner; Rita General, Great National Insurance mall branch supervisor; Jennifer Santos, Great National Insurance adjuster; Dorriann Songeni, Great National Insurance underwriter; Vilma Bumagat, Great National Insurance HR & systems manager; Marilou Besagar, Great National Insurance general manager; Troy Sagun, GUD Munchies LLC owner; Aline Mendoza, SM Island administrative officer; and Nathan Denight, Guam Visitors' Bureau president and CEO.

# Ada says BOE will pursue $10.3M owed by NMI govt

**By ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education wants to run after the $10.3 million owed by the CNMI government, according to a key member of the board.

BOE chair Marylou Ada said at the BOE meeting last Thursday that the board would press ahead with efforts to go after the maintenance-of-effort funding owed the Public School System.

The CNMI received $44 million under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund in 2009, of which $32.3 million was for public education. One of the conditions for this grant was that PSS must be given a specific share in the overall budget of the CNMI government, otherwise known as the MOE. At the time, this was equivalent to 40 cents to a dollar or 25 percent of the overall CNMI government budget.

What used to be a debt of about $4 million has ballooned to about $10.3 million, an amount of money that the BOE has yet to see.

"We are going to ask the current governor that we have to be paid, it is due to us," said Ada.

The federal government has already come out with an opinion on the debt, saying the CNMI government "must pay the Public School System $10 million for the MOE."

According to Ada, BOE budgets have not reflected this debt.

Ada said if the CNMI government denies to pay this debt, the BOE would request the U.S. Department of Education to warn the CNMI government that there are certain ramifications should the CNMI decline to pay.

A consequence of breaking the MOE agreement is that the federal government may withhold future grants to recover the $44 million SFSF money.

"That would put hundreds of Commonwealth government employees' jobs on the line," Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said.

Ada said the additional funding would be used to improve PSS' infrastructure.

"I want schools to be e-book ready. The [BOE] wants to advance its technology, wants to have safe and [sturdy] schools, and infrastructures be environment-friendly," said Ada.

"We want the students to be served a hot meal rather than a pre-packaged lunch; so [BOE] is moving in that direction," she added.

Ada also mentioned that the additional funding would be used as possible financing for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers.

Ada opts to stay positive on the matter. "It is not impossible. Everything is solvable and, if we work together, everything would be done," she said. "I have four years to work on this. With my team, I believe we can do it."

An estimated $9 million to $11 million is owed PSS under the MOE. Based on PSS' books, the unremitted MOE for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 is over $7 million.

The CNMI government filed a waiver application with the U.S. Department of Education in 2012, seeking to change the MOE formula but the department has denied it.

**CHARITY R. HODSON** (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

*Attorney for Petitioner Emilia T. Williams*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MOSES D. WILLIAMS, Deceased. ) CIVIL ACTION ) NO. 16-0183 ) NOTICE OF HEARING ) ON PETITION ) FOR DECREE OF FINAL ) DISTRIBUTION ) Date: March 30, 2017 ) Time: 9:00 am ) Associate Judge ) Joseph N. Camacho

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE MOSES D. WILLIAMS OR HIS ESTATE:**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that **Emilia T. Williams** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue a Decree of Final Distribution in the Estate of Moses D. Williams, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is **Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the above indicated date and time at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 21st day of February, 2017.

**/s/ Clerk of Court**
**Deputy Clerk of Court**

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, : CIVIL ACTION NO.: 11-0044

Plaintiff, :
-v- :

HENRY SABLAN HOFSCHNEIDER and ELENA BABAUTA HOFSCHNEIDER, :
Defendants :

**SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 9, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot no. 002 G 72, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Land and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat no. 002 G 03 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Record's File no. 90-1900, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 10, 2017, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 27th day of January, 2017:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB17-NMHC-101**

**SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 22, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (CREW CAB) FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR, NMHC

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

**File Your Income Tax Return**
**(Deadline 4/15/17)**
**TBK Document Handling**
2nd floor of Dollar Days (Garapan) Next To Majesty Chinese Restaurant.
Open: Monday - Saturday Tel: 233-2288
8:30am - 11:00am & 1:30pm - 4:00 pm
**Sunday**
**DOLLAR DAYS FLOWERSHOP**
**10 AM TO 6 PM**
**(Pick Up Form Only)**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB17-DPW/R&G-095**

**SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 4X4 PICK UP TRUCK – 4 DOORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND GROUNDS DIVISION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB17-DCAA/HPO-098 – CIF ROTA**

**SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 22, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (4DRS.) FOR THE DCCA – HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – ROTA BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB17-DCAA/HPO-099 – CIF TINIAN**

**SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 22, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK (4DRS.) FOR THE DCCA – HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – TINIAN BRANCH"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB17-DCAA/HPO-097 (A-C)**

**SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 22, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) PICK UP TRUCKS (4DRS,), PURCHASE OF A CLASS "I" AND A CLASS "D" VEHICLE FOR THE DCCA – HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

# ‘Empowering women as leaders of change’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog, front row seventh right, joins members of the working committee for the Women’s Month for a group photo after the proclamation signing.

JON PEREZ

Villa M. Hocog, front row from left, former House vice speaker Felicidad T. Ogumoro, and acting governor Victor B. Hocog listen while Maisie B. Tenorio, back row right, reads the proclamation. Vice speaker Janet U. Maratita, back row center, and Del R. Lieto wait for their turn.

Office of the Governor special assistant for Women’s Affairs Doris Drew recognized all women in the CNMI in celebration of March as Women’s Month in yesterday’s proclamation signing by acting governor Victor B. Hocog on Capital Hill.

This was Hocog’s second time to proclaim March as Women’s Month.

NMI Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence executive director Maisie B. Tenorio read the proclamation in English, vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) in Chamorro, and Carolinian Affairs Cultural Program coordinator Del R. Lieto in Carolinian.

Drew said the CNMI continues to take big steps in strengthening support for women’s rights that inspire women in the community to celebrate their achievements. “Women have been participating in our political, social, cultural, and economic setting. It reflects the progress we’ve made in effecting change in every women in our community. We celebrate the courage and determination of ordinary women who helped shape the history of our community and our islands.”

Reducing the gender gap has also made progress in the CNMI, she said, with the creation of the Women’s Affairs Office. “There’s a woman in every board appointed by the governor, women in the Legislature, several top offices in the private sector and nonprofit organizations are held by women.”

“We should be proud of these achievements by women but we still need some work. The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and [Lt. Gov. Victor B.] Hocog are headed in the right direction as reflected in the Cabinet appointments.”

Secretaries Edith Deleon Guerrero (Labor), Larrisa Larson (Finance), and Marianne Teregeyo (Public Lands) are some of the women on the administration’s Cabinet and in other agencies and divisions in the Executive Branch, along with other special assistants like Shirley Ogumoro (Administration).

Drew said they recognize all women in different sectors of the community. “Mothers, who make sure her kids have clean clothes to wear and meals to eat; the clerk at the grocery store who works to help her family pay the bills; police officers who make our communities safe; the doctors and nurses who provide better healthcare for us.

“Members of the Legislature who create public policy; the lay workers in our churches and places of prayer; the retirees who serve the government; the veterans who fought for our freedom and protect our democracy; and volunteers who unselfishly give time to support various causes.”

Villa M. Hocog, the acting governor’s wife, said that March should be a reminder to all women to be inspired by those who shatter the stereotype, “women who have the courage to break free from the chains of belief as well as society’s conditioning that kept women suppressed and unable to explore their true potential and power.”

“As parents, we teach children to reach for their goal. We all want our [female] kids to be successful women, who just want to have equal opportunity to men,” she added.

# Cruise line promotes 6-day, 5-night cruise

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Star Cruises’ Superstar Virgo could accommodate 1,870 passengers.

A cruise line that will hopscotch throughout Southeast Asia is offering a six-day, five-night cruise trip from March 19 to May 23 that starts in Manila, Philippines going to Laoag, Philippines, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and Hong Kong before completing the loop back to Manila.

Star Cruises’ *Superstar Virgo*, which could accommodate 1,870 passengers, is offering a promotional fare as low as $490 per passenger for an inside stateroom that measures about 150 sq. ft., with discounts for every third or fourth passenger for reservations made before the departure dates of March 19, 24, and 29.

For March, the Oceanview Stateroom, which measures about 160 sq. ft., goes for $610 per passenger. The Balcony Stateroom, which measures about 200 sq. ft., goes for $760 per passenger, the Junior Suite, which measures about 450 sq. ft., goes for $980 per passenger, and the Executive Suite, which measures about 600 sq. ft., goes for $1,230 per passenger.

For departure dates April 3, 8, 13, 18, 23, and 28 and May 3, 8, 13, 18, and 23, prices are higher for each room per passenger.

A port charge of $165 would also be charged per passenger.

Star Cruises is owned by international hotel chain Resorts World.

It was awarded the “Best Asia Cruise Experience” award in *Porthole Cruise* Magazine’s 2012 Editor-in-Chief awards.

*Travel Trade Gazette Asia,* or TTG Asia, inducted Star Cruises into its 2011 “Travel Hall of Fame.”

Star Cruises also received Malaysia’s leading 100 graduate employers award 2011 and, together with Norwegian Cruise Line, Star Cruises is the third largest cruise line operator in the world with 18 ships cruising to over 200 destinations in the world, offering about 35,000 lower berths, or built-in beds in a cruise ship or train.

Star Cruises ferries about 3 million passengers annually.

# Bordallo nominates Guam students to military academies

**HAGÅTÑA, Guam**—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced Monday that she has nominated students from her constituency to four U.S. military academies. The nominations were presented to the applicants during a ceremony held on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2017.

This year's applicants are currently students of senior standing at the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, George Washington High School, Simon Sanchez High School, Okkodo High School, St. John's School, Harvest Christian Academy, Guam High School, and Fr. Duenas Memorial School.

The students completed a rigorous application and interview process with Bordallo to obtain the nomination to their chosen U.S. military academies.

Appointments to the U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy will be announced between February and the end of the academic year.

"I am very proud to be able to nominate these students to the various U.S. military academies once again this year," said Bordallo. "These students have maintained excellent academic stranding and leadership skills throughout their high school careers, and I am confident that they will excel at the academies. These students are to be commended for their courage and willingness to serve our country. This is an excellent opportunity for all of Guam's students and I encourage incoming seniors to consider attending the service academies after high school and serving in our military." ***(PR)***

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) presents certificates of special congressional recognition to high school seniors on occasion of their nomination to the U.S. military academies.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO


**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
**Office of the Executive Director**

## INVITATION FOR BIDS

**CUC-IFB-17-017**
**KOBLERVILLE SUMP ABANDONMENT AND WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koblerville Sump Abandonment and Water System Improvements in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of new installation of new transmission and distribution lines, cut and cap of existing lines and tapping to existing mains. The work also includes the installation of air relief valves, new sample taps, and asphalt pavement restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **220 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

**This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.**

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **March 8, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*CUC-IFB-17-017, Koblerville Sump Abandonment and Water System Improvements"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23rd, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

*A Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and to Travis Spaeth, CUC Project Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org .

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
**Office of the Executive Director**

## INVITATION FOR BIDS
**CUC-IFB-17-019**

**GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC WATER & WASTEWATER FACILITIES, SAIPAN**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water and Wastewater facilities in Saipan, in compliance with USEPA inspection and sanitary survey requirements.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by a site visit is scheduled for **March 2, 2017** at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Saipan, to ensure prospective bidders are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions.

*CUC will award a contract to more than one firm for said services, based on bids for "Service Section" pursuant to Scope-of-Work.*

**One (1) Original and Seven (7) Hard Copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-019, Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Water & Wastewater Facilities, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 17, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bids shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 6, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email — manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Gary Byrd, CUC Water & Wastewater Division Manager via email-gary.byrd@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement Technician, via email–marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**
**Acting Executive Director**

**MANNY B. SABLAN**
**Purchasing Administrator**

# IT&E donates $3,500 to NMC golf tourney

As part of its ongoing commitment to expand educational opportunities in the CNMI, IT&E donated yesterday $3,000 and a Samsung Galaxy S7 smartphone to the Northern Marianas College Foundation.

The donation was made as part of the NMC Foundation's 14th Annual Golf Tournament, which raises funds for educational programs and services.

"IT&E's longstanding partnership with Northern Marianas College has helped many students reach their educational goals and we want to continue to strengthen our island's only postsecondary school as much as we can," said John Compton, IT&E's chief operating officer. "We are excited to be supporting this year's NMC Foundation Golf Tournament, as we do every year, and look forward to a successful event."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E Sales and Marketing manager Hans Mickelson, fourth from right, standing, and IT&E Customer Service manager Janice Tenorio, second from right, present a donation of $3,000 and a Samsung Galaxy S7 to Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, sixth from right, standing, and NMC students. The donation was made as part of the NMC Foundation's Annual Golf Tournament scheduled for March 18, 2017.

"We are thankful for IT&E's generous contribution," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "The company has a strong record of supporting educational causes, and we are extremely appreciative of their commitment to our community."

"IT&E's donation will go a long way in helping NMC students," said NMC Foundation president Mary Tenorio.

The 14th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort (east course). Show time is at 6am and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights will each receive $500 cash, while $300 and $200 will go to the second and third place finishers.

Hole-in-one prizes include a 2017 Toyota Tacoma from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a 2017 Mazda6i Sport from Triple J Motors, and $5,000 in cash each from Marianas Insurance Company, McDonald's, and Pacifica Insurance.

The tournament will also feature many other items as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meal gift certificates, and much more.

Registration and payment can be made at Laolao Bay Golf Resort or the NMC Cashier's Office. For sponsorship opportunities or registration information, visit marianas.edu or call 237-6833. ***(NMC)***

## IT&E proceeds to benefit Chamber scholarship fund

To assist with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's efforts to provide scholarship funding to students, IT&E donated over $1,000 in cash and in-kind donations to the Chamber's last week.

Chief operating officer John Compton said that the Chamber plays a key role in addressing the concerns of the private sector and providing support for the business community.

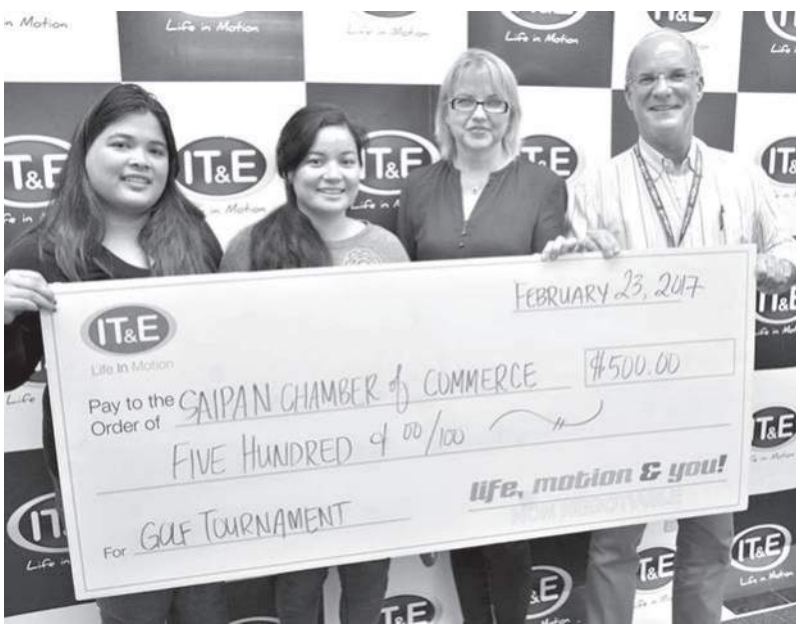
"Throughout the years, we've provided assistance to programs like these and we hope we can continue to build active support and collaboration across our community," he said.

SCC administrator Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec said that this year's golf tournament was made possible by many of their key partners.

"Proceeds will go a long way in ensuring the continued development of our scholarship program and other events the Chamber develops to improve our business community and the CNMI. On behalf of the Chamber, we are very thankful for IT&E's continued assistance throughout the years which have benefitted many of our community programs," Palec said.

Compton added that with the ongoing improvements to IT&E's new fiber network, supporting SCC helps strengthen communications and infrastructure goals in the Commonwealth.

If you'd like to learn more about IT&E CNMI products, services, or outreach stop by IT&E's Chalan Laulau Store on Middle Road or IT&E's Garapan store inside the TSL building. You can also log onto Facebook at IT&E CNMI or blog.ite.net. ***(PR)***


IT&E
Pay to the Order of SAIPAN CHAMBER of COMMERCE $500.00
FIVE HUNDRED & 00/100
For GULF TOURNAMENT
FEBRUARY 23, 2017
life, motion & you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E presents over $1,000 in cash and in-kind donations to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. In photo, from left to right, are IT&E marketing coordinator Daisy Demapan, Chamber administrator/coordinator Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec, Chamber executive director Jill Arenovski, and Sales & Marketing manager Hans Mickelson.

## SAME donates $20K to UOG School of Engineering

SAME Guam Post
Society of American Military Engineers
Guam Post
1991
Date 21 FEBRUARY 2017
Pay to the Order of UOG ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION $ 20,000
TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 Dollars
PO BOX 1438
HAGATNA, GU 96932
For SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

UOG

The Society of American Military Engineers Guam Post recently donated $20,000 to the University of Guam Endowment Foundation for the university's School of Engineering. From left to right, SAME Guam Post president Noel Enriquez, SAME Guam Post vice president LCDR Matthew Mattivi, CEC, USN, 1st, SAME Guam Post director Bob Shambach, SAME Guam Post treasurer Chris Arnsfield, UOG president Dr. Robert Underwood, and UOG Endowment Foundation director Janiece Sablan.

In support of the University of Guam School of Engineering, the Society of American Military Engineers recently donated $20,000 to the University of Guam Endowment Foundation.

The donation—made during Engineering Week—aligns with the organization's vision to develop the nation's future engineers and grow prospective members through STEM outreach efforts, scholarships, and engagement of College Student Chapters, said SAME Guam Post president Noel Enriquez. "Higher education is the backbone of SAME membership and without the students and institutions to support higher learning, whether they come from the military, public, or private sector, the membership in SAME would not exist," Enriquez said.

During the week, UOG pre-engineering students in the SAME Student Chapter partnered with professional engineers and visited high schools around the island. They talked about the pre-engineering program at UOG and encouraged aspiring engineers to participate in the upcoming 5th Annual Dean Gillham Bridge Building Competition, which will be held at UOG on March 11, 2017.

Foundation executive director Janiece Sablan said a faculty office within the upcoming School of Engineering building will be named for SAME to recognize its contribution. The university hopes to break ground on the building this spring. ***(UOG)***

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

**March 1, 2000**

### Remittances reach $65-M in 1999

Nonresident workers in the CNMI have remitted more than $65 million in 1999, up by at least $7 million from the figures registered during the previous year, government records showed. Northern Marianas-based guest workers sent out more than $58 million in 1998, about $6 million higher than the 1997 tally of $52.4 million, showing an increasing trend despite sharp reduction in the number of foreign labor in the islands. A report prepared by the Department of Commerce noted that remittance by Filipino workers in the islands declined in 1999 compared with the previous year level of $49 million to $45.4 million. In 1997, overseas contract Filipino workers remitted $48.3 million to the Philippines.

### Gov't moves to entice businesses to hire local workers

The CNMI government is laying the ground for a possible partnership with members of the business community through an incentive package, in fresh efforts to encourage increased participation of local workers in the private sector. A private sector employment incentive program is now being prepared by the House of Representatives, under which the government will share with the businesses the wages and salaries of local worker trainees in the school-to-employment program. The school-to-work employment program hopes to lure CNMI college and technical or vocational graduates into private sector jobs, thereby, reducing the Commonwealth's heavy dependence on foreign manpower. Under the proposed measure which is currently under review by the House committee on education, permanent residents of the CNMI who graduate from a post-secondary academic, technical or vocational institution is eligible to participate in the program.

# Polynesian canoe crew finds way to remote Easter Island

**HONOLULU** (AP)—The Polynesian voyaging canoe sailing around the world without modern navigation equipment has found its way to Easter Island.

The crew of the Hokulea arrived on Monday. A team of four apprentice navigators spotted the tiny remote island also known as Rapa Nui at sunset Sunday.

Captain Archie Kalepa says finding the island was one of the biggest challenges the crew has faced. According to the Polynesian Voyaging Society, it's considered one of the most difficult islands to find using traditional wayfinding.

They departed the Galapagos Islands on Feb. 12.

The arrival marks the canoe's return to the Polynesian triangle.

Hokulea left Hawaii in 2014, guided by stars and nature. The Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage is expected to return home in June.

# Bridge Capital sponsors bin on Mt. Tapocchao

Bridge Capital, LLC and MINA Tasi Watch community rangers worked together last Friday to clean up litter left behind at Mt. Tapochao.

The cleanup was part of MINA's Adopt-a-Bin program, which aims to prevent harm to living marine resources by reducing the amount of land-based sources of marine debris.

Sponsors provide valuable services to the island community, promoting an island culture of recycling and removing thousands of mixed waste and recyclable items along our coastal areas.

Because of Bridge Capital's sponsorship, MINA was able to place a recycling bin on Mt. Tapochao for the second consecutive year.

For more information about MINA's Adopt-a-Bin Program and other environmental projects, visit www.minapacific.org or contact 233-REEF, or minaoutreach@gmail.com. ***(MINA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Staff of Bridge Capital, LLC and MINA Tasi Watch community rangers work to clean up litter left behind at Mt. Tapochao last Friday.

# Jehovah's Witnesses to host circuit assembly

Jehovah's Witnesses from Saipan and Tinian will attend a circuit assembly at their local Kingdom Hall in Gualo Rai on Saturday, March 4, and the program on that day will be presented in English and American Sign Language. To accommodate the many Tagalog, Korean, and Chinese speaking people in the area, the program will also be given in those languages at the same location on Sunday, March 5.

The assembly will feature the theme: "Increase Your Faith in Jehovah!" based on Hebrews 11:6. By means of a series of lectures, interviews, and demonstrations, the program will clearly show that it is imperative that we build our faith and strengthen our confidence in Jehovah God. It will also outline practical steps on how to build our faith and give us a firm resolve and hope for the future.

A highlight of the event will be a Bible lecture at 1:30pm titled, "True Faith – What Is It and How Is It Shown?" to be given by Junie Segismundo, a representative from Guam.

The program will begin each day at 9:30am. The public is invited and all seats at this Christian gathering are free with no collections taken. We are confident that all present will benefit from this spiritual occasion.

For more information about Jehovah's Witnesses, visit jw.org. ***(PR)***

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Puerto Rico Park still closed to public

For safety reasons, the CNMI government is asking the public to refrain from entering the Puerto Rico Park facility. Construction is still at its final phase; therefore, the facility is still considered closed to the public. The park will be officially opened on April 1, 2017. ***(PR)***

### Chamber meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold a general membership meeting tomorrow, March 1, 2017, at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club. The buffet luncheon begins at 11:30am; the meeting starts promptly at noon. Guest speakers will be from Kagman Community Health Center: executive director Vince Castro and Medical Director Katherine Elstun, MD. ***(PR)***

### Navy training at Warning Area 517

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Feb. 28 to March 1. The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the date and times indicated.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00»N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. ***(PR)***

# Advice for auditors of foreign aid projects in the Pacific

The Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions completed its first pilot of conducting a cooperative financial audit for the region and selected the topic of foreign aid projects.

Six SAIs from Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu and Samoa participated with the support of INTOSAI Development Initiative. This pilot program resulted in multiple observations and lessons learned, which forms the basis of a regional report. The report also includes practical advice to assist SAIs in the conduct of financial audits of foreign aid projects in the future. It is expected that both SAIs and development partners in the Pacific region may learn valuable lessons from individual SAI reports as well as from a regional report to improve and enhance the quality of the audits of funds provided by foreign aid.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
PASAI advocate Eroni Vatuloka hands a copy of the regional report to PASAI chair Iso Ihlen Joseph at the launch.

The current PASAI chairman, Iso Ihlen Joseph, the public auditor of the Federated States of Micronesia State of Pohnpei office, summed up the importance of this topic: "With a worldwide focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, there is an ever-increasing quantity of aid flowing into developing countries relating to SDGs. This requires governments to be even more responsible for the transparent and accountable use of funds provided by foreign aid, whether it is for SDG implementation or government projects. In the Pacific this can be even more challenging and highlights the need for a strong country financial system to manage these aid funds honestly and fairly, to ensure they are meeting the needs of the targeted government projects."

The official launch of the PASAI regional report was held in Auckland, New Zealand, at the Grand Millennium Hotel on Feb. 23, 2017, during PASAI's 16th governing board meeting, which was attended by the governing board members, PASAI's INTOSAI representative, and development partners from Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the World Bank, and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. All delegates were presented with a copy of the report and it will also be published on PASAI's website, www.pasai.org.

PASAI promotes transparent, accountable, effective, and efficient use of public sector resources in the Pacific. It contributes to helping its member SAIs improve the quality of public sector auditing in the Pacific to uniformly high standards and assists governments to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels which aligns with Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

PASAI acknowledges the financial support of the Australian government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the collaborative ongoing joint regional partnership with IDI. ***(PASAI)***

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

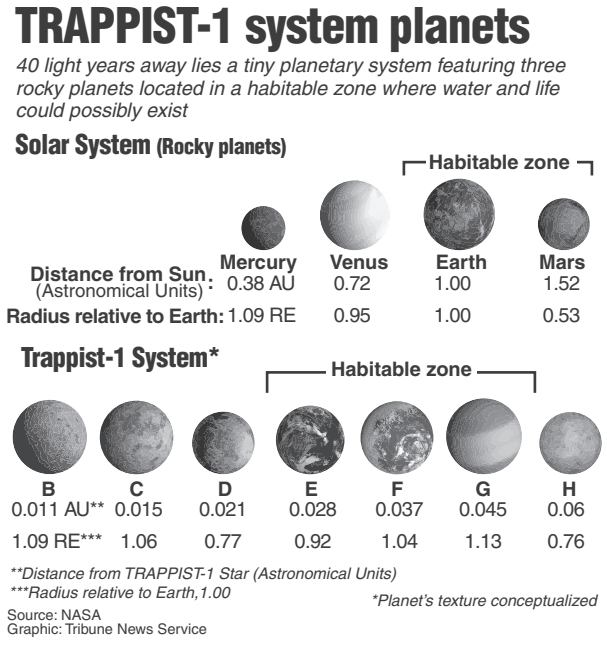
## EDITORIAL

# Sight of seven new planets stirs the imagination

The discovery of seven Earth-size planets orbiting a dwarf star 40 light-years away—a mere 235 trillion miles from Earth as the crow flies—has excited the world's scientists in ways the discovery of other exoplanets hasn't.

That's because the seven planetary siblings circling Trappist-1 are part of an older star system that happens to be close enough to Earth to be observed from a network of observatories on the ground and the Hubble Telescope in space.

All seven planets are as close to Trappist-1 as Mercury is to our own sun, but the dwarf star has only the fraction of our sun's heat and light. Consequently, water


TRAPPIST-1 system planets
40 light years away lies a tiny planetary system featuring three rocky planets located in a habitable zone where water and life could possibly exist
Solar System (Rocky planets)
Habitable zone
Mercury
Venus
Earth
Mars
Distance from Sun. (Astronomical Units): 0.38 AU 0.72 1.00 1.52
Radius relative to Earth: 1.09 RE 0.95 1.00 0.53
Trappist-1 System*
Habitable zone
B C D E F G H
0.011 AU** 0.015 0.021 0.028 0.037 0.045 0.06
1.09 RE*** 1.06 0.77 0.92 1.04 1.13 0.76
**Distance from TRAPPIST-1 Star (Astronomical Units)
***Radius relative to Earth,1.00
*Planet's texture conceptualized
Source: NASA
Graphic: Tribune News Service

can exist on the surface of those worlds without being scorched away. Temperatures may even be relatively mild on some worlds.

Along with Hubble and the observatories, a powerful infrared telescope to be launched next year will aid scientists in determining the atmospheric composition of these new worlds. We'll soon know if water exists on these exoplanets and whether the chemical compounds that make life as we know it possible can be detected.

If there is advanced or primitive life in that planetary system, there will be telltale signs of it in the atmosphere. Humanity is tantalizingly close to discovering whether life exists beyond the confines of this planet. Who knows? It may even usher in an era of humility and wonder.

(c)2017 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

# Share your insignificant worries

**By MICKEY MCCAULEY**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Remember how Twitter felt before a TV loudmouth with no political experience ran for president? Before a thin-skinned narcissist assumed command of America's nuclear arsenal? It was a place where people went to complain, sure, and to express their anxieties, just like now—but the complaints and the anxieties were smaller back then, at a human rather than global scale. It was less terrifying, less exhausting.

Since Twitter displays the most recent tweets at the top of the page, and since the president commits cataclysmic geopolitical gaffes at breakneck pace, the social network has become an endless waterfall of apocalyptic news. Refresh: He instituted a slipshod Muslim ban. Refresh: He mishandled confidential intel at his gaudy Florida country club. Refresh: He responded to a Jewish reporter's concerns about anti-Semitism by braying about his middling electoral victory.

The accumulation of so many far-reaching offenses creates a sort of psychological gravity, a grim neutron star curving the public consciousness inexorably back into its orbit.

Looking for respite—hoping for a momentary return to our halcyon pre-campaign days—I asked anyone and everyone listening on Twitter to tell me about the irritating minutia of their lives; grievances that, while real and valid, lacked the magnitude of, say, a potential nuclear holocaust.

The chance proved appealing. Almost immediately the responses arrived in my notifications, shining spotlights on life's annoying vagaries.

A cellphone user groused about a messaging faux pas: "Sometimes i try to send a DM and have bad reception. it doesn't send. i try again and it sends twice and i look dumb as hell."

Watching prestige television was baffling for another: "I watched ALL of The Young Pope and I STILL don't know what to make of it or if it was good!"

A woman experienced a pang of beverage regret: "my bf said he was gonna pick up milk and asked if i needed anything and i said no, but now i wish i asked for coke."

A man struggled with impulse control: "I downloaded an add-on to google chrome to limit my time on some websites (including twitter). I just use safari now."

A woman railed against nocturnal fauna: "the squirrels in the attic ( ... ) wake me up like clock work at 1am and 7:45am every day."

An NPR listener confessed his displeasure: "Even though I theoretically support public radio, I fly into a blind rage whenever they do a pledge drive."

Trends emerged: indolent pets, people idling in front of doors. I did my best to honor each person's grievance by writing a small missive of agreement and support. The task was more fun and easier than I expected. What better way to be positive than by tag-teaming with someone else's negativity? Even when I didn't understand the particulars, the underlying themes shone through: corporate apathy, the mysteries of unresponsive technology, social graces being trod upon.

Soon enough, the original request gained momentum. A few replies became dozens, then hundreds, then 1,000. People shared my request with their followers without having a complaint of their own, just passing the message along.

I suppose I was offering escapism; if you're moaning about, say, expired coupons instead of deportations, you might feel a momentary sense of normality. But I believe the larger appeal was in the prospect of receiving a reply. I tweeted my commitment to answer all of the messages I received, and that promise is what snowballed the original request into a days-long project. This says nothing about my skill as either a writer or therapist, but speaks to something deeper.

A recent story about the volunteers in President Obama's mailroom got to the heart of the matter. Regardless of what the citizens were writing about—the Affordable Care Act, an upcoming wedding, fear of the future—the staff responsible for reading and responding said that the universal sentiment was a desire to be heard, to feel as though their voices mattered. A reply, whether it's from the White House or a nobody comedian in Los Angeles, has an indelible, alleviating effect.

In the vast wasteland of the internet, someone is hearing you. Someone is connecting to you. Someone is taking your concerns seriously.

"I hate everyone!" wrote one malcontent. "That means there's no escape from being annoyed by fellow humans—my condolences!" I replied.

I am still in the process of responding to messages. Grievances are still trickling in. Followers with common complaints are tweeting at one another in solidarity. The process has left me in awe of the power of personal connection, at the ability of a decidedly average schmo to attract the attention of thousands, just by listening. The brief respite I sought has turned into a thousand friendly notes. It is touching, invigorating and inspiring all at once. To paraphrase William Blake, it's possible to see the world in a grain of sand even if that grain gets caught in your freaking eye.

*Mickey McCauley is a writer and comedian in Los Angeles. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Finu` pinasensia

Apmam de hu ekuñgog konbetsasion mañaina yan man-amko`hu gi todu okasion. Man-antau, kabilosu yan mehnalum gi supiriot na dopbladan palabra ni motmut pinasensia yan sustansia.

Desde mamaisen saina, inapagat, yan akonsehu man-antau gi eskaleran liñguahen niha yan sensian pinasensia. Hu chagi malalatde ya piniloghu na todu mauleg. Dispues `nai hu repapara na masablasus-yu` kabales. Kanaha` hu falague gi madug pañglau ni mamahlauhu.

I akonsehu mafattu pot esta manginen mismu lugat ya mali`e pinadesi mina` mansattun gi para tafan ma-adiñgane. Gigun un` hatsa i layag tailaye dispues de ma-adiñgane hau pues hagu siempre un` katga kilu`osmu namaisa.

Kontodu mañgopblan dibi masentuñgu` dopbladan palabra. Hagu ni mandidibi debi un` chahlau haf` sessu finatoña i prohimu-mu. Seguruyu` na timattun para u fan ñgañgas chañga na pugua`!

### Priniponen Ha`anita

Masuette un` sotterita (disisiete años idatña) $1.5 miyon pesus gi London Lottery. Mamahan todu klasen katpeta, sapatus, magagu, alahas, kareta yan otru manguaguan siha na kosas yan trastes.

Dispues de `nos kuantus mesis ha repara na mas komplikau linala`ña. Initut todu i hagas libregue chumo`hue kontodu mamokat para i tenda. Un` dia mata`chong ya hafaisen maisague`: ke lau haf` sustansian ha`anihu?

Mababa hinassoña gi hilu` hinimidde pot ha repara na tumaigue linala` espirituat giya guiya. Maliñgu i hagas añklaña hi muna` fitme diariu linala`ña. Ha birague` tatte gi hagas modu.

Hana`e otganisasion ni ma-establesi para u fan man-ayuda mopnle manadan salape` para u chogue chechu` niha. Mas kontentu ha`aniña dispues `nai ha baba gineftauña gi man-namase`.

Tasusesedi finattun gueku na siñiente giya hita gi hinanau-ta kumu mañgilisyanu. Sehan ñaihon sa` kasi kulan un` suhaye linala` espirituat ni numana`e hau esperansa yan himidde gi ha`animu!

### Amot Hineñgge

Todu u fan mattu gi idat `nai ni mona ni tatte ti amtiyun chenotta. Desde antes preparauyu` umaksepta este na pinadesi. Uttimu nina` siñahu i hu pega ha`anihu gi disposisioña gi hilu` tinayuyot ayudu ginen i taihinekog na nina` siñaña yan yine`ase`ña.

Unu gi mas afamau na medikun korason oppan ha esplika fuetsan hineñgge gi man-malañgu siha. Ileghu na taya` mas ke satbadot-ta ni man-nana`e minaguñg yan minahguñg tautauña siha. Desde ke hu pega ha`anihu gi disposisioña ni unabes `nai chathinassu-yu` gi maseha haf` problema-hu. Inañgoghu gi Saina tai atparehu!

### Setbisiu

I uniku na hospitat-ta guine dañkulu na ayudu ha nesessita gi sisteman hinemlu`. Desde fasilidat, mediku, infetmera, yan otru siha nesessidat kulan man-maletki ni man-ma`gas.

Mauleg umakomprendi ni man-sabiu na guaha sumen presisu siha kuestion debi u faisen maisa siha. Pot ihemplu: kau kapas i hospitat guine sumetbi malañgu desde ke ma-atmite, ma-opera yan mapega gi ICU? Este na kuestion pot kapasidat i mas presisu.

Debi in` ketuñgu` kualifikasion medikun operasion, medikun ICU yan infetmera siha sa` kaiha parehu este na grupu yan regulat na tropa. I otru pot fasilidat para man-nina`ye tuberculosis (TB). Kau guaha separau kuattun niha yan kau sahñge na air-condition para usun man-TB?

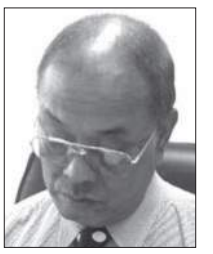
Haye gumeluluye komiten hinemlu` gi todu i dos guma` pot fabot prekura chumogue obligasion miyu ke in`fan lolosus `an talo`ane dispues de in gulosuni katdun to`lang.

Oran sufa` pa`gu! Mampos asuntun hinemlu` mi-eskalera ya debi in` atetuye kumomprende haf` asuntu yan nesessidat tautauta siha. Muñga man-hinalañg sa` desde primet eskalera makat asuntun hinemlu`.

### Ininan Moneda

Gaige guine tautau US General Accounting Office, inbetigadot

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the* Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Congresson iya America, para u ina haf` dibin Marianas, kuantu ha rikokohe na aduana (tax) gi sakan, yan kau kapas man-apase dibi yan obligasion para mona.

Machogue este pot finapos iya Puerto Rico `nai uttimoña hinegse dibi ke haf` ha rikokohe gi sakan esta ke brok (bankrupt) pa`gu. Dibiña ennau i $77 Biyon pesus. Ginen chinatsagan dibi yan kinalamten fuetsau man-hanau megai gi tautau niha para iya America.

Masusedi este guine gi kase dies años malofan `nai mas ke 3,000 na tautau-ta dumiñgu i tanu` pot taya` appottunidat chochu` para siha. Este na hinanau fuetsau ya esta pa`gu sige ha` i tautau-ta man-hanau. Makat na disision lau uniku remediu i para u fan hanau para ayu na pastahe giya America `nai motmut pastu para todus.

Man-magof i man-hanau sa` masoda` ginefsagan niha `nai masoda` mauleg na komunida `nai mañaga `nai sumen antau sisteman edukasion, hinemlu` yan cho`chu`. Kulan mala`et memorias niha pot iya Marianas ni mama` lusenfetnus dimas mohon de komplidu paraisu! Lau taiguine masusesede `nai appenas appottunidat para i tautau-ta siha.

Guaha mohon kampu para ta aregla tatte tano`ta kumu paraisun natibu? Na ti pog diskuidun ginen halum na man-hanau kantida na tautau-ta siha? Mattu dichu i tiempu para ta pega halum i man-edukau, antau, mehnalum yan kabilosu gi che`chu` linahyan! Ti siña esta ta apotsu futtuna-ta.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Thank you

Throughout the year significant efforts are made to bring awareness and understanding of health and disability issues to the public. For example, March is National Developmental Disabilities Month, April is Autism Awareness Month, and May is National Mental Health Awareness Month, to name only a few.

Health and wellness are also supported by the Northern Marianas Sports Association and the various sports federations for tennis, soccer, paddling, cycling, swimming, baseball, etc., again to mention only a few.

On Feb. 25, 2017, the Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation held a "Party in the Park" to celebrate health and wellness in the Commonwealth and to raise funds to support the sport of bodybuilding in both local and international competitions.

We would like to thank all those who volunteered their time and talent to provide entertainment for the evening: Jayda Rayphand, Keeah Rayphand, Magthalina Sebuu, David Borja, Cullen Michael, and Greg Borja.

We also would like to thank KKMP, *Saipan Tribune,* Marianas Security Corp., Kaye Christian, and Joeten Enterprises for their generous support.

We are now looking forward to the 3rd Annual Marianas Muscle competition to be held on March 25, 2017, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Saipan. If you are interested in participating or supporting this competition, contact John Davis at johnhdavisjr@gmail.com or Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807 or jeanneesq@yahoo.com. And check out "northern marianas bodybuilding and physique federation" on Facebook.

**Jeanne Rayphand**
*Secretary, NMBPF*

# Oscar got best picture right on night of big gaffe

**By GARY THOMPSON**
PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

The "La La Land" Oscar-nominated song "Audition" contains an ode to unfulfilled dreams as an actress accustomed to trying and failing sings "Here's to the mess we make."

You said it, sister.

"Audition" didn't win for best song, and as it turned out "La La Land" didn't win for best picture, even though presenter Faye Dunaway announced that it had, sending "La La Land" producers to the stage for a victory celebration that ended abruptly when the terse accountants from Price Waterhouse let it be known the real winner was "Moonlight."

But the mess they made, while it constitutes a kind of history, should not obscure the larger history that "Moonlight" made Sunday—actually, early Monday morning on the East Coast.

It's the first movie about a gay character to win best picture, a feat denied recently to "Brokeback Mountain," "Dallas Buyers Club" and "Milk." And as Aisha Harris points out on Slate, it's also the first best picture winner about a black character ("Driving Miss Daisy," "In the Heat of the Night," "12 Years a Slave") that is not about racism.

The movie, adapted by Barry Jenkins from an unproduced play by Tarell Alvin McCraney, follows a fatherless black child named Chiron who grows up in a poor Miami neighborhood, son to a mother (Naomie Harris, nominated for best supporting actress) addicted to drugs.

He is gay, and, without a family, defenseless against a homophobic crowd of bullies he encounters at school and on the streets. But he's not entirely alone—he finds a surrogate father in a local drug dealer (Mahershala Ali). Their brief but moving relationship is defined by a lovely scene in which the older man takes Chiron to the ocean and teaches him to swim on his own, a poetic moment with profound implications.

This scene almost certainly won Ali best supporting actor and no doubt went a long way toward securing the best picture award for "Moonlight."

That Oscar is an honor for "Moonlight," but "Moonlight" is also a gift to Hollywood, which has endured a few years of stinging criticism for its lack of diversity among nominees. Here is the sort of story mainstream movies rarely tell, acclaimed as the best picture of the year.

And while that may seem like a trivial thing against the problems that people like Chiron face each day, McCraney, who based the story on his own life, said the validation is important.

"This goes out to all those black and brown boys and girls and non-gender-conforming who don't see themselves; we are trying to show you, and us. So thank you," he said, in accepting his award for best adapted screenplay, along with Jenkins.

Jenkins said the movie reaches out to "all the people out there who feel like there's no mirror for you, that your life isn't reflected."

The night made history in other ways with a record number of black nominees and winners: Ali, Jenkins, Viola Davis ("Fences") and Ezra Edelman ("O.J. Made in America").

For those who see last night as a hurried attempt to right recent wrongs, keep in mind how long it takes a movie to be made—Jenkins worked on "Moonlight" for eight years. When I asked "Hidden Figures" writer-director Ted Melfi if Hollywood greenlighted his movie as a response to criticism, he laughed.

"Hollywood is like a glacier. It doesn't do anything quickly. It can't. "

In other words: Here's to "Moonlight," and the mess Hollywood didn't make.

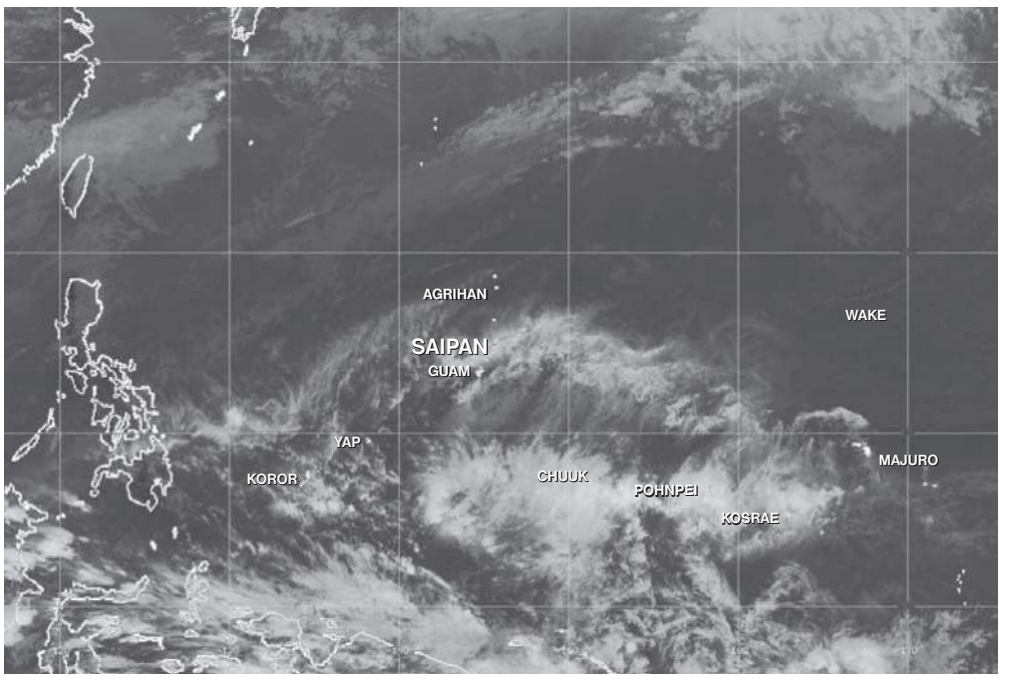
*Gary Thompson is a movie critic for the* Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may email him at thompsg@phillynews.com.*

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated shower |
| ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼78° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 6:32 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Latest models show no reason to change the forecast from the previous version. GFS is trimming back rainfall for Thu-Sat with each new run, by progressively pushing the rain further west. This brings it into better agreement with the dry ECMWF, and as a result the forecast of mostly cloudy with isolated showers for that period still looks good. Overall, the forecast for the next week is a fairly dry one.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Rain showers | 84 \| 77 °F |
| Palau | Scattered thunderstorms | 87 \| 71 °F |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 84 \| 72 °F |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 83 \| 79 °F |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 84 \| 79 °F |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 84 \| 80 °F |
| Majuro | Showers | 84 \| 79 °F |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly cloudy | 74 \| 63 °F |
| Beijing | Clear skies | 46 \| 24 °F |
| Hong Kong | Partly cloudy skies | 73 \| 59 °F |
| Honolulu | Overcast | 75 \| 68 °F |
| London | Partly cloudy and windy | 48 \| 39 °F |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 73 \| 48 °F |
| Manila | Sunny | 90 \| 74 °F |
| Melbourne | Sunny | 90 \| 60 °F |
| Miami | Partly cloudy | 82 \| 70 °F |
| New York | Windy with thunderstorms | 71 \| 46 °F |
| Osaka | Sunshine | 57 \| 42 °F |
| Paris | Periods of rain | 53 \| 41 °F |
| Pusan | Cloudy | 56 \| 36 °F |
| Rome | Sunny | 60 \| 40 °F |
| Salem | Cloudy | 48 \| 41 °F |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 54 \| 44 °F |
| Seoul | Cloudy skies | 51 \| 29 °F |
| Tokyo | Cloudy with rain | 54 \| 43 °F |
| Washington, DC | Windy | 78 \| 46 °F |

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 3:32 AM | LOW TIDE | 0.04 |
| 9:45 AM | HIGH TIDE | 2.02 |
| 4:03 PM | LOW TIDE | 0.46 |
| 9:44 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.92 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:34 AM | 6:24 PM |
| Thursday | 6:33 AM | 6:24 PM |
| Friday | 6:33 AM | 6:25 PM |
| Saturday | 6:32 AM | 6:25 PM |
| Sunday | 6:31 AM | 6:25 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 8:23 AM | 8:53 PM | - |
| Thursday | 9:10 AM | 9:50 PM | - |
| Friday | 9:58 AM | 10:49 PM | - |
| Saturday | 10:48 AM | 11:48 PM | - |
| Sunday | 11:40 AM | - | - |

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2017

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6394 | 4:15am | 5:05am | Daily |
| UA6392 | 8:40am | 9:30am | Daily |
| UA6391 | 1:30pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota |
| UA6390 | 2:20pm | 3:10pm | 2, 3, 6 |
| UA6398 | 6:05pm | 6:55pm | Daily |
| UA6396 | 9:50pm | 10:40pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6391 | 1:30pm | 2:05pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6391 | 2:35pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL297 | 4:15pm | 7:05pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 2:35am | 6:25am | Daily |
| OZ626 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:40am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:35am | 8:30am | Daily |
| LJ652 | 3:10pm | 7:05pm | Daily |
| 7C3401 | 4:30pm | 8:25pm | Daily |
| ZE582 | 4:25pm | 8:35pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 2:55am | 6:10am | 1, 7 |
| OZ608 | 3:10am | 6:20am | 4, 7 |
| 7C3451 | 3:15am | 6:30am | 4, 5 |

**SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3433 | 3:55am | 7:30am | 3, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8648 | 5:20am | 8:00am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:50am | 3, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8646 | 4:30am | 7:50am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626/701 | 2:10am | 10:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/701 | 2:50am | 10:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA6394/191 | 4:15am | 9:00am | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA6394/PR111 | 4:15am | 9:30am | Daily via GUM |
| PR1572 | 5:45am | 7:45am | 4, 7 |
| UA6391/183 | 1:30pm | 9:30pm | 5 via Rota-GUM |
| UA6391/183 | 1:30pm | 9:50pm | 1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM |
| UA6391/193 | 1:30pm | 11:10pm | 5 via Rota-GUM-ROR |
| UA6390/183 | 2:20pm | 9:30pm | 2 via GUM |
| UA6390/183 | 2:20pm | 9:50pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| UA6390/193 | 2:20pm | 11:10pm | 2 via GUM-ROR |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UO43 | 1:40am | 5:00am | 1, 4, 6 |
| HX077 | 2:15am | 5:15am | 1, 4 |
| OZ626/721 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/721 | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ628/723 | 3:50am | 12:50pm | Daily via ICN |
| PR1572/318 | 5:45am | 12:20pm | 4, 7 via MNL |
| UA6391/159 | 1:30pm | 10:35pm | 1, 5 via Rota-GUM |
| UA6390/159 | 2:20pm | 10:35pm | 3, 6 via GUM |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6393 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| UA6395 | 7:15am | 8:05am | Daily |
| UA6391 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| UA6390 | 12:10pm | 1:50pm | 2, 3, 6 via Rota |
| UA6397 | 4:45pm | 5:35pm | Daily |
| UA6399 | 8:30pm | 9:20pm | Daily |

**GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6390 | 12:10pm | 12:45pm | 2, 3, 6 |

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA6390 | 1:15pm | 1:50pm | 2, 3, 6 |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL298 | 10:25am | 2:55pm | Daily |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| LJ651 | 8:25am | 1:45pm | Daily |
| ZE581 | 10:15am | 3:35pm | Daily |
| 7C3402 | 10:10am | 3:30pm | Daily |
| OZ625 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| TW307 | 8:15pm | 1:35am+1 | Daily |
| OZ625 | 8:20pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:30am+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 8:30pm | 1:20am+1 | 6, 7 |
| OZ607 | 9:00pm | 1:50am+1 | 3, 6 |
| 7C3452 | 9:35pm | 2:15am+1 | 3, 4 |

**JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3434 | 10:05pm | 2:40am+1 | 2, 6 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8647 | 10:20pm | 4:30am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU763 | 4:40pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8645 | 7:50pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA190/6397 | 9:55am | 5:35pm | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| OZ702/625 | 12:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/625 | 12:30pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/UA6395 | 10:05pm | 8:05am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| UA192/6395 | 10:20pm | 8:05am+1 | 2, 5 via ROR-GUM |
| PR1571 | 10:25pm | 4:45am+1 | 3, 6 |
| UA184/6395 | 10:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA184/6395 | 11:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |

**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| OZ724/627 | 2:20pm | 2:50am+1 | Daily via ICN |
| HX076 | 5:50pm | 12:45am+1 | 3, 7 |
| PR307/1571 | 6:20pm | 4:45am+1 | 3, 6 via MNL |
| UO42 | 9:30pm | 4:25am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |
| UA116/6395 | 9:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 6:30AM | 6:45AM | Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat |
| 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily |
| 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily |
| 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily |
| 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily |
| 12:30NN | 12:45NN | Daily |
| 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily |
| 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily |
| 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily |
| 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily |
| 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily |
| 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |
| 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily |
| 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily |
| 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily |
| 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily |
| 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily |
| 12:00NN | 12:15NN | Daily |
| 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily |
| 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
| 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 7:45AM | 8:15AM | Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat |
| 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 8:30AM | 9:00AM | Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat |
| 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat |

# Business

## Takata pleads guilty in air bag scandal, agrees to pay $1B

AP
In this May 4, 2016, file photo, visitors walk by a Takata Corp. desk at an automaker's showroom in Tokyo.

**DETROIT** (AP)—Japanese auto parts maker Takata Corp. pleaded guilty to fraud Monday and agreed to pay $1 billion in penalties for concealing an air bag defect blamed for at least 16 deaths, most of them in the U.S.

The scandal, meanwhile, seemed to grow wider when plaintiffs' attorneys charged that five major automakers knew the devices were dangerous but continued to use them for years to save money.

In pleading guilty, Takata admitted hiding evidence that millions of its air bag inflators can explode with too much force, hurling lethal shrapnel into drivers and passengers. Chief financial officer Yoichiro Nomura spoke on behalf of the Tokyo-based company, saying the conduct was "completely unacceptable."

The inflators are blamed for 11 deaths in the U.S. alone and more than 180 injuries worldwide. The problem touched off the biggest recall in U.S. automotive history, involving 42 million vehicles and up to 69 million inflators.

Penalties in the criminal case include $850 million in restitution to automakers, $125 million for victims and $25 million for the U.S. government. Takata's fine to the government could have been as much as $1.5 billion, but the judge in the case said such a sum probably would put the company out of business.

While Takata's destruction "would probably be a fair outcome," it wouldn't help victims get paid, U.S. District Judge George Caram Steeh said in accepting the deal negotiated with the U.S. Justice Department.

Takata's penalty is small compared with the one imposed on Volkswagen, which must buy back cars and pay up to $21 billion over its emissions-cheating scandal. Steeh said he would pick a person to administer the restitution funds this week. Kenneth Feinberg, who handled the General Motors ignition switch and BP Oil spill compensation funds, is being considered.

Takata's inflators use ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion that inflates air bags in a crash. But when exposed to prolonged high temperatures and humidity, the chemical can deteriorate and burn too fast. That can blow apart a metal canister.

In the U.S., 19 automakers are recalling inflators. Worldwide, the total number is over 100 million.

Takata is "fully committed to ensuring that such conditions never happen again," Nomura said.

## Hugger or not, keep yours hands to yourself at work

**YOUR OFFICE COACH**

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

*Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of* Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

**Q: I'm the type of person who likes to physically express my appreciation. If a co-worker helps me out or offers a compliment, I often say thanks by squeezing their hand or giving them a shoulder rub. Unfortunately, these friendly gestures of gratitude are now grounds for getting reprimanded by human resources.**

**When I met with our HR manager, she emphasized that despite my positive intentions, I should not be touching anyone at work. To me, this is like trying not to smile when you say hello. Because restraining my natural instincts is so difficult, I am constantly on guard around my colleagues.**

**I have considered finding another job, but I'm afraid this is just the world we now live in. To remain employed, I apparently have to be devoid of the most basic human emotions. How did simple, caring gestures get distorted into something that can get you fired?**

**A:** Many people express positive feelings through touch, so your dismay at being chastised is understandable. However, you need to realize that there are just as many folks who do not like being touched by co-workers. To them, these physical overtures are an unwanted violation of their personal boundaries.

Because your no-touch colleagues may otherwise be quite friendly, you have no way of knowing who they are. If you continue to pat, squeeze or hug them, they will not be pleased. Therefore, if your goal is to show appreciation, a verbal expression of gratitude would be a much better idea.

As your HR manager undoubtedly explained, unwelcome touching can be considered sexual harassment. By advising you to break this hazardous habit, she is not only meeting the company's legal obligations, but also trying to keep you out of trouble. So it's time to muster up some willpower and keep your hands to yourself.

**Q: I was recently fired because the requirements of my job conflicted with my personal ethics. Six months ago, a telemarketing company hired me as a contract employee. I was initially assigned to represent a reputable national firm and I was glad to make calls on their behalf.**

**As time went on, however, I was given clients who were much less trustworthy. My last assignment required me to lie about both the business I represented and the reason for the call. When I refused to participate in this deception and requested a different project, I was abruptly terminated. What can I do about this?**

**A:** You are certainly to be commended for your unwillingness to mislead customers. If everyone shared your moral code, people would be much less wary of telemarketers.

Since I am not an attorney and know nothing about your contract, I can't comment on the validity of your termination. But the sad reality is that contract employees are typically subject to quick and easy dismissal unless their employment terms specify otherwise.

On the positive side, however, you probably haven't lost much by leaving this job. Any business based on falsehoods is not likely to be a desirable employer, so finding a more principled and rewarding workplace should not be a difficult task.

## Big surge for military in Trump budget, big cuts elsewhere

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump is proposing a huge $54 billion surge in U.S. military spending for new aircraft, ships and fighters in his first federal budget while slashing big chunks from domestic programs and foreign aid to make the government "do more with less."

The Trump blueprint, due in more detail next month, would fulfill the Republican president's campaign pledge to boost Pentagon spending while targeting the budgets of other federal agencies. The "topline" figures emerged Monday, one day before Trump's first address to a joint session of Congress, an opportunity to re-emphasize the economic issues that were a centerpiece of his White House run.

Domestic programs and foreign aid would as a whole absorb a 10 percent, $54 billion cut from currently projected levels - cuts that would match the military increase. The cuts would be felt far more deeply by programs and agencies targeted by Trump and his fellow Republicans, like the Environmental Protection Agency as well as foreign aid. Veterans' programs would be exempted, as would border security, additional law enforcement functions and some other areas.

"We're going to start spending on infrastructure big. It's not like we have a choice - our highways, our bridges are unsafe, our tunnels," the president told a group of governors at the White House on Monday. He added, "We're going to do more with less and make the government lean and accountable to the people."

However, Trump's final version of the budget is sure to leave large deficits intact - or even add to them if he follows through on his campaign promise for a huge tax cut.

His plan faces strong opposition from Democrats, who possess the power to block it. The immediate reaction from Republicans was mixed, with prominent defense hawks like Sen. John McCain of Arizona saying it would do too little to help the Pentagon and fiscal conservatives and supporters of domestic agencies expressing caution.

The White House indicated that the foreign aid cuts would be particularly large.

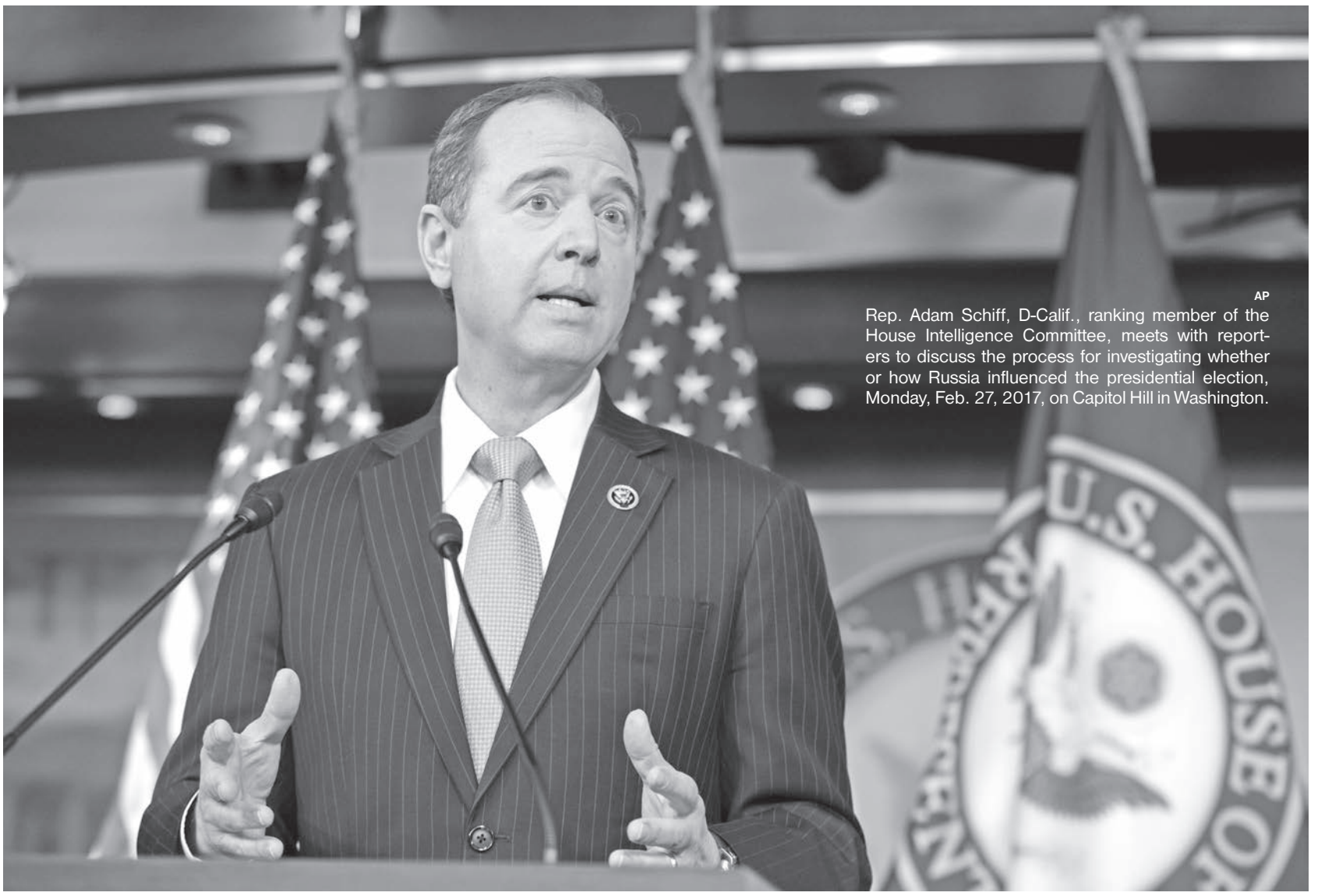
Asked about those plans, top Senate Republican Mitch McConnell of Kentucky would say only, "We'll see how it works out."

A congressional showdown is inevitable later this year, and a government shutdown a real possibility.

White House Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said the spike in Pentagon spending would bring the total defense budget to a record $603 billion—and that's before including tens of billions of dollars for overseas military operations.

# Nation

# House probe into Russia ties to Trump off to rocky start



AP
Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, meets with reporters to discuss the process for investigating whether or how Russia influenced the presidential election, Monday, Feb. 27, 2017, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A simmering dispute between leaders of the House intelligence committee spilled into the public Monday over an investigation into whether President Donald Trump has ties to Russia, even as they pledged to conduct a bipartisan probe.

The Republican committee chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes of California, said he has heard no evidence so far that anyone in Trump's orbit was in contact with Russians during the presidential campaign. The top Democrat on the committee, Adam Schiff, also of California, said the committee's investigation was hardly off the ground and it was premature to make any conclusions.

The nature of ties between Trump's associates and Russia has dogged him throughout his nascent presidency, and Monday brought renewed calls for a special prosecutor to investigate the unusual situation. Federal investigators have been looking into contacts between Trump advisers and Russia for months, along with Russia's role in political hacking during the campaign aimed at Democrats. Trump, on Monday, said he hasn't called Russia in 10 years.

The House and Senate intelligence committees are conducting separate investigations. But revelations last week that the White House enlisted the Republican chairmen of those committees to push back against news reports have intensified concerns over whether the congressional investigations will be tainted by political influence.

Nunes has said the White House asked him to talk with one reporter, but didn't give him any guidance on what to say. He said he told that reporter the same thing he's said to many other reporters in the course of discussions.

Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina said he wasn't taking questions about whether the White House enlisted him to talk to reporters, as reported by The Washington Post. He said he doesn't need to talk about it.

"I'm in a comfortable place. I didn't do anything to jeopardize my investigation." Burr told The Associated Press on his way out of the Capitol after Senate votes Monday night.

The issue was likely to come up at Tuesday's Senate confirmation hearing for Dan Coats, a former senator who is Trump's pick to be the next director of intelligence.

Speaking to reporters earlier Monday, Nunes—a member of Trump's presidential transition team—said Congress should not begin a McCarthy-style investigation based on news reports that a few Americans with ties to Trump had contacted Russians during the 2016 presidential campaign.

"We can't have McCarthyism back in this place," Nunes said. "We can't have the government, the U.S. government or the Congress, legislative branch of government, chasing down American citizens, hauling them before the Congress as if they're some secret Russian agent."

Former Sen. Joe McCarthy led a hunt for communists in the 1950s that was fueled by anonymous informants. Nunes said if evidence surfaces, the committee will investigate.

## Trump looks to refocus his presidency in address to Congress

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump's first address to Congress gives him a welcome opportunity to refocus his young administration on the core economic issues that helped him get elected—and, his allies hope, to move beyond the distractions and self-inflicted wounds that have roiled his White House.

Trump's advisers say he will use his prime-time speech Tuesday to declare early progress on his campaign promises, including withdrawing the U.S. from a sweeping Pacific Rim trade pact, and to map a path ahead on thorny legislative priorities, including health care and infrastructure spending.

"We spend billions in the Middle East, but we have potholes all over the country," Trump said Monday as he previewed the address during a meeting with the nation's governors. "We're going to start spending on infrastructure big."

The White House said Trump has been gathering ideas for the address from the series of listening sessions he's been holding with law enforcement officials, union representatives, coal miners and others. Aides said he was still tinkering with the speech Monday night.

Republicans, impatient to begin making headway on an ambitious legislative agenda, hope Trump arrives on Capitol Hill armed with specifics on replacing the "Obamacare" health law and overhauling the nation's tax system, two issues he's so far talked about in mostly general terms. More broadly, some Republicans are anxious for the president to set aside his feuds with the media, the intelligence community and the courts, which have overshadowed the party's policy priorities.

"Results aren't going to come from that," said Judd Gregg, the former Republican senator from New Hampshire. "Results are going to come from driving the policies he said he would do."

The pressure from Republican lawmakers makes this a critical moment for a new president who ran for office on a pledge to swiftly shake up Washington and follow through on the failed promises of career politicians.

While most new presidents enjoy a honeymoon period, Trump is saddled with record low approval ratings - just 44 percent of Americans approve of his job performance, according to a new NBC News/Wall Street Journal survey. His most sweeping executive order was blocked by federal courts, sending advisers scrambling to write a new travel and immigration directive, which the president is expected to sign on Wednesday.

## Judges sides with transgender students over bathroom access

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—A federal judge on Monday ruled that three transgender students at a Pennsylvania high school can use bathrooms that correspond to their stated gender identities while their lawsuit challenging the school district's policy continues.

The judge said in issuing a preliminary injunction that the three—two students born anatomically male who now identify as female and one born anatomically female who identifies as male—were reasonably likely to win the case on equal protection grounds.

U.S. District Judge Mark Hornak said the Pine-Richland School District north of Pittsburgh has not demonstrated its policy advances an important governmental interest, nor is there evidence that personal privacy is being threatened.

"Other than perhaps one report received by the high school principal in October 2015 from a student that 'there was a boy' in the girls bathroom ... followed by a parent inquiry along the same lines in early 2016, there have been no reports of 'incidents' where the use of a common restroom by any one of the plaintiffs has caused any sort of alarm to any other student," the judge wrote.

He said there also is no evidence any of the three has done anything to invade anyone's "physical or visual privacy" at the school.

The three, all seniors, sued to challenge the policy in October.

One of the students, Elissa Ridenour, 18, told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Monday that she was relieved by the news, and she and the other plaintiffs will soon start using the bathrooms of their choice.

"Even though it's such a small win, it really is huge in this respect. I'm very happy and it's a relief," she said. "We still have a fight left to go, but we're not going to give up."

Last week, the Trump administration ended federal protection for transgender students that allowed them to use public school bathrooms and locker rooms matching their gender identities.

# Asia

# PH militants release video of German's beheading

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Abu Sayyaf extremists in the Philippines released a video showing the beheading of a German hostage in the first sign the brutal Filipino militants carried out a threat to kill him after a ransom deadline lapsed over the weekend.

President Rodrigo Duterte's adviser dealing with Muslim rebel groups, Jesus Dureza, condemned the killing of Jurgen Gustav Kantner as barbaric, saying the Philippine military and other groups "exhausted all efforts to save his life" up to the final moment.

"We grieve as we strongly condemn the barbaric beheading of yet another kidnap victim," Dureza said in a statement. "We all tried our best. But to no avail."

The brief video circulated Monday by the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi websites, shows Kantner sitting in a grassy clearing and saying "Now he kill me" shortly before a masked militant beheads him with a curved knife.

A few gunmen mutter "Allahu Akbar," or "God is great," in the video that lasts a minute and 43 seconds.

The Philippine military confirmed Kantner had been "mercilessly and inhumanly murdered."

"Our operations in the past several days and nights using all our resources were unrelenting. We lost some of our best men in the process, because we value the life of Mr. Kantner and that of the others who have fallen prey to this terrorist group," spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said in a statement.

An intelligence report seen by The Associated Press said an Abu Sayyaf militant, Moammar Askali, had wanted Kantner to be killed as announced but others wanted to wait out for a ransom payment. The militants circulated a video earlier this month in which Kantner said he would be killed if ransom was not paid by 3 p.m. Sunday.

Philippine officials have said the militants were seeking a ransom of 30 million pesos ($605,000).

In this undated image made from militant video and released by SITE Intel Group on Feb. 24, 2017, shows German hostage Jurgen Gustav Kantner at an undisclosed location. AP

In Germany, Foreign Ministry spokesman Martin Schaefer said German experts were evaluating the video to determine whether it was authentic, but that if it was, it's "deeply shocking."

"It makes you question what can lead people to commit such a barbaric crime, but, at the moment, I'm not in a position to say whether the video's authentic," he said.

He would not give any details on possible negotiations with the kidnappers, including whether there was a ransom demand, citing government policy and saying that "public comment never helps in finding a solution" in such cases.

Abu Sayyaf claimed in November that its gunmen had kidnapped Kantner and killed a woman sailing with him off neighboring Malaysia's Sabah state. Villagers later found a dead woman on a yacht with the German flag off Laparan Island in Sulu province in the southern Philippines, the military said.

Kantner and his partner, Sabine Merz, were taken hostage by Somali pirates in 2008 and later freed, officials said.

The Abu Sayyaf, which the U.S. and the Philippines have blacklisted as a terrorist organization, is holding more than 20 foreign and local hostages in jungle encampments in the country's south. They beheaded two Canadian men last year after separate ransom deadlines lapsed.

Duterte has ordered troops to destroy the Abu Sayyaf extremists, saying their ransom kidnappings were embarrassing and were creating a security alarm in the waters bordering the south, Malaysia and Indonesia. The three countries have made efforts to jointly shore up security along their busy sea border but the kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf and allied gunmen of passing crews have persisted.

# Malaysian officials run into N. Korean's diplomatic immunity

**TOKYO (AP)**—Malaysian police investigating the killing of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's estranged half brother believe they know somebody who might help them solve one of the most bizarre murder mysteries they have ever faced. They know his name, his nationality and have a pretty good idea where he's holed up.

The problem is he's a North Korean diplomat.

It's unusual for any country to simply hand over a diplomat, no matter the alleged crime. Two years ago, for example, a Saudi Arabian diplomat accused of repeatedly raping and abusing two Nepalese maids left India under cover of diplomatic immunity.

But for North Korea, in particular, the line between immunity and impunity can seem to be a pretty fine one.

Take the 2015 case of the first secretary of North Korea's embassy in Bangladesh, who was found to be carrying a diplomatic bag full of 170 undeclared gold bars worth an estimated $1.4 million. He was arrested but later released, with no charges filed, and left the country. The following year, another official at the same embassy was asked to leave the country after an attempt to smuggle a shipping container full of 1 million cigarettes and electronics worth another $1 million.

Last year, a report by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime said a South Africa-based North Korean diplomat may have been involved in smuggling rhino horn but managed to evade charges because of his legal immunity.

Enter second secretary Hyon Kwang Song, the current person of interest. Malaysian police have released little information about him, except that he is 44 and arrived in Malaysia on Sept. 20.

Police investigating the killing of Kim Jong Nam in an airport lobby on Feb. 13 are seeking seven North Korean nationals in connection with the case. Most have left the country, but authorities say they believe three—diplomat Hyon; an employee of Air Koryo, the country's flag carrier; and a person named Ri Ji U—remain.

If so, it's not hard to imagine where they might be: the North Korean Embassy, a plain, yellow two-story house in an affluent neighborhood just 10 minutes from downtown. A large group of journalists and photographers has camped outside the embassy since news of Kim Jong Nam's killing broke.

Whether they are indeed at the embassy is anybody's guess. Police can't check because to do so they need permission from North Korea, which so far has said absolutely not and suggested the investigation is a witch hunt inspired by some unnamed foreign power.

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said investigators have submitted a request through Malaysia's foreign ministry to the North Korean Embassy to interview the diplomat.

"If you have nothing to hide, you do not have to be afraid," he said. "You should cooperate."

But that's not what international practice says.

The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations says a foreign diplomat is "inviolable" and is not liable to any form of arrest or detention. It says the host country must treat a foreign diplomat "with due respect and shall take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on his person, freedom or dignity."

It also adds that "a diplomatic agent shall enjoy immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving state." That can only be waived by the diplomat's own government.

Because of allegations the North uses its embassies abroad to make money for its nuclear and missile programs, United Nations sanctions now call for vigilance against North Korean diplomats engaged in illicit activity. All member states are required to reduce the number of staff at its diplomatic missions and consular posts and limit the number of bank accounts each can have.

Even so, few things are more established in the way the diplomatic community around the world conducts its day-to-day business than the concept of diplomatic immunity—the essential freedom of diplomats to travel and conduct their duties without the fear of being arrested or harassed for political reasons.

But while diplomats aren't always the perfectly law-abiding citizens that we might hope, when diplomatic immunity and the realities of a criminal investigation butt heads, local police tend to have the weaker hand.

And that doesn't bode well for Malaysian investigators hoping North Korea will open its doors.

"If he is a Korean diplomat with a diplomatic passport, then he has immunity no matter a criminal case or otherwise," lawyer Sankara Nair, who has handled several cases involving diplomats, told The Associated Press in Kuala Lumpur. "The police can apply any warrants they want but it can easily be set aside by the embassy."

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Taiwan marks crackdown anniversary amid China tensions

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—Taiwan is marking the 70th anniversary of a bloody crackdown on anti-government protesters that is widely seen as a rejection of China's claims to the self-governing island democracy. The protests that began on Feb. 28, 1947, were directed at the corrupt rule of Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist Party that had taken control of the former Japanese colony less than two years earlier. China considers the uprising a part of the overall struggle that led to the communist victory in 1949. As many as 28,000 people were believed killed after Chiang dispatched troops to massacre participants in the largely peaceful protests, many of whom came from the Japanese-educated elite. Suppressed under Nationalist rule, the uprising has become a rallying point for Taiwanese who say the island and China are separate nations.

### Japanese emperor departs for visit to Vietnam and Thailand

**TOKYO (AP)**—The emperor and empress of Japan have left Tokyo for a one-week trip to Vietnam and Thailand. Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko departed Tuesday morning from Haneda Airport. Their visit to Vietnam comes at a time of growing ties between the two countries. Many Japanese companies have built factories in Vietnam, and Vietnamese are among the largest groups of foreign students in Japan. Akihito and Michiko will meet with surviving widows and children of Japanese soldiers who stayed in Vietnam after World War II but had to leave after the communists took control of the north in 1954. In Bangkok, they will pay respects to former King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died in October. Akihito said that he and Michiko enjoyed a close friendship with Bhumibol for more than 50 years.

### Kyrgyz court orders opposition leader kept in custody

**BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan** (AP)—A court in Kyrgyzstan has ordered a prominent opposition leader to be kept in custody on fraud and corruption charges that his supporters see as politically driven. The State Committee for National Security, or GKNB, said in a statement that the court ruled Monday Omurbek Tekebayev should stay in jail for two months pending an official probe. About 200 of Tekebayev's supporters rallied outside the court building to demand his release. Tekebayev, the leader of the Ata-Meken party, was arrested early Sunday after returning from Vienna. The GKNB said the charges are related to a $1 million bribe he allegedly received from a Russian businessman while serving as deputy prime minister. Critics of the government see Tekebayev's arrest as part of efforts to muzzle dissent ahead of November's presidential elections.

# World

## Germany sees 'alarmingly high' number of anti-migrant crimes

AP

The Sept. 23, 2016 shows a poster 'Refugees not welcome' sticked on a city sign in the outskirts of Nauen, eastern Germany, one of several thousand hate crimes in Germany in 2016.

**BERLIN** (AP)—Migrants and their homes in Germany faced more than 3,500 attacks in 2016, a number that is "alarmingly high and cause for concern," a German official said Monday, while adding that the crimes are being aggressively prosecuted and the numbers of such attacks are now falling.

Most of the attacks were crimes like vandalism to asylum-seeker homes—including far-right graffiti, threats and slander—but the report also included more serious attacks like arson, bodily harm and attempted murder. It was compiled by the Interior Ministry with information from Germany's 16 states in response to a question in Parliament by the Left party.

"There was a very wide spectrum of crimes ... every one is to be condemned," said Interior Ministry spokesman Johannes Dimroth.

The attacks led to 560 people being injured, including 43 children. Overall, 2,343 suspects were identified and investigated, according to the new report.

Comparison figures for previous years haven't been compiled but Dimroth said after 2016 the "trend is downward ... which gives us a little bit of hope."

Germany took in 890,000 asylum-seekers in 2015, and the influx caused a backlash and a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment, which was most pronounced in eastern parts of the country.

The government has invested more resources into fighting xenophobic crimes, but the new figures show more needs to be done, said Gauri van Gulik, deputy Europe director of Amnesty International.

"We need to see better risk assessments, more protection at certain locations, thorough investigations and prosecutions of these appalling racist attacks to stop them in the future," van Gulik said.

Dimroth said, in addition to government policies and police enforcement, it's up to society in general to fight racism, saying it's impossible to just "ban" extremism.

"All of society has the responsibility to establish a climate where extremism finds no fertile ground," he said.

The number of asylum-seekers in Germany tapered off to 280,000 in 2016. With the decrease, and more intensive government efforts to rapidly send home those whose applications are rejected, anti-immigrant sentiment has tapered off somewhat.

The government has also been working to more rapidly integrate those who are allowed to stay.

With a German national election planned for the end of September, it seems likely the nationalist and anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany, or AfD, party will have more than enough support still to win seats in Parliament for the first time even though recent polls have shown a steady decline in support. A poll last week showed the party's support at 11 percent, down from as high as 16 percent last fall.

## Warplanes pound northwest Syria as Geneva meetings continue

**BEIRUT** (AP)—Airstrikes on Syria's rebel-held Idlib province killed at least 11 people on Monday, opposition activists said, in the latest spasm of violence to mar U.N.-brokered talks in Geneva between the government and the opposition.

Separately, there were unconfirmed reports that a top al-Qaeda official was killed in an airstrike, also in Idlib.

Also on Monday, pro-government forces drove Islamic State militants out of a line of villages in the congested Turkish frontier region, blocking the path of rival Turkish-backed opposition forces from reaching the de facto IS capital, Raqqa, opposition activists said.

The SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors extremist groups, said Abdullah Muhammad Rajab Abdulrahman, the deputy to al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, may have been killed in a U.S. airstrike on an unmarked sedan on Sunday evening. It cited reports circulating on jihadi social media accounts.

The northwestern province falls largely under the control of an al-Qaida-linked rebel coalition. Hundreds of thousands of Syrians displaced by fighting are living as refugees there.

Images of the vehicle purported to have been carrying Abdulrahman, known more widely by his nom de guerre Abu al-Khayr al-Masri, showed damage to the passenger compartment of the beige Kia sedan but no damage to the engine block. The roof was blown open on the right side of the vehicle.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that a top al-Qaida official was killed in a drone strike, but could not confirm it was al-Masri.

Al-Masri was a close associate of Osama Bin Laden and was once the chairman of al-Qaida's management council, according to a Washington Post report citing leaked US intelligence documents dating back to 2008.

Iranian authorities are believed to have jailed him following the 9/11 attacks before releasing him in a prisoner exchange with al-Qaida in Yemen in 2015.

A senior official in a rival jihadi faction in northern Syria urged caution over the reports, saying other top al-Qaida officials in Syria had staged their own deaths only to defect from the group. The official asked not to be identified because of rivalries between the various factions.

There was no immediate comment from the Pentagon.

Government forces and allied Hezbollah fighters meanwhile cut an arc through Islamic State-held territory to reach independent, Kurdish-led forces near the Euphrates River, effectively preventing Turkish-backed Syrian opposition forces from heading south toward Raqqa.

The opposition forces, which seized al-Bab from the Islamic State group last week, will now have to confront government forces or the rival Kurdish forces if they desire to reach Raqqa, which is further southwest along the Euphrates River.

Those forces are accompanied by a deployment of Turkish troops, tanks and artillery inside Syrian territory. Turkey says the nearby Kurdish-led forces are terrorists.

## Iraqi forces battling Islamic State reach Mosul bridge

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Iraqi forces reached one of Mosul's five destroyed bridges on Monday as they pushed deeper into the western half of Iraq's second largest city, driving Islamic State militants back with the help of U.S.-led airstrikes.

Maj. Gen Thamir al-Hussaini said the militarized Federal Police advanced in the face of snipers, anti-tank missiles and suicide car bombs, describing "fierce" clashes in which Iraqi forces suffered casualties, without providing exact numbers.

Just a few kilometers (miles) from the front, wounded troops streamed into field hospitals, many of them suffering from shrapnel wounds. One soldier had lost the lower part of his leg in an explosion.

Frontline medics at one field hospital said they had received more than 20 casualties by midday. The medics spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations as Iraq's military does not release casualty information.

U.S.-led airstrikes disabled all of Mosul's bridges spanning the Tigris River last year in a bid to isolate the militants in the western half of the city. Iraq declared eastern Mosul "fully liberated" last month but the militants have carried out attacks there since then.

Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen TV aired live footage from the western Gawsaq neighborhood, showing Iraqi troops in armored vehicles and Humvees rolling through dusty streets as gunfire rattled. Thick black smoke could be seen billowing up after airstrikes.

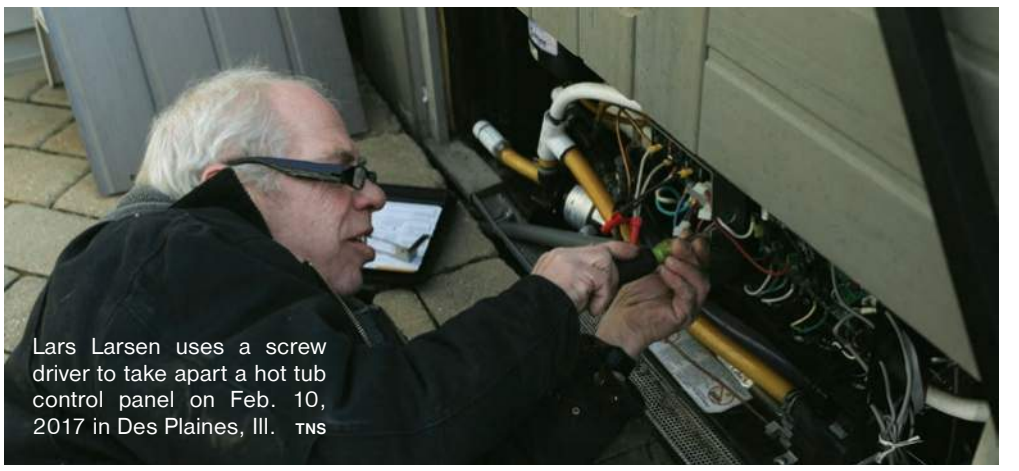
Iraqi forces took Mosul's international airport and a sprawling military base next to it last week before pushing into Mamun, the first neighborhood in the western half of the city after the airport.

Mosul is Iraq's second largest city, and its western half is the last significant urban area held by IS in the country.

# Good Housekeeping

# On the job with hot-tub repairman Lars Larsen

By CHRISTOPHER BORRELLI
CHICAGO TRIBUNE


Lars Larsen uses a screw driver to take apart a hot tub control panel on Feb. 10, 2017 in Des Plaines, Ill. TNS

**CHICAGO** — Lars Larsen, the Hot Tub Mad Max of Chicago, the roving, go-to repairman for many a hot tub emergency, is not a glamorous figure. He does not dawdle or like small talk or ingratiate. He works every day, early in the morning, late into the night. He is long and rangy and looks a bit like Lee Marvin, with a toothy grin and hard blue eyes. And the work — not as thrilling as you may think. You know how you woke up today wondering about the state of the American hot tub? I know I did. I thought this was a perfect story for Valentine's Day. I associated hot tub culture with sex, and so I asked Lars to let me follow him on his rounds. For some reason, this sounded like a good idea. But there's nothing romantic about hot tub repair.

Or hot tubs.

Not in 2017.

You start your day with a hot tub repairman and antiquated ideas, thinking you'll be attending backyard bacchanals in Schaumburg, Ill., and you end up standing beside a 58-year old guy doing electrical work and turning screws, listening to "Let It Be" on repeat. You daydream of Fleetwood Mac and Laurel Canyon, of steam rising inside of redwood barrels stuffed with well-oiled hedonists, and you find yourself with mud collecting at your feet on a 6-degree night, watching pool water rush inside the cuffs of Larsen's pants and chill his bare hands.

You find yourself admiring a handyman, a guy who fixes the culture we throw out.

Over his shoulder, his hands deep into the guts of a hot tub, he says he has repaired in recent weeks an old iMac, an ice-maker, a blender, a microwave oven, a shower, a boiler, a pedicure chair. He tried fixing a TV, but it was too wet. He imagines being paid $5,000 to fix the revolving doors at his doctor's office, which are always broken. He says people want him to fix everything. They hear about him through word of mouth. "Still, most people'd rather buy new these days. Because of China. Now it's mostly hot tubs."

His Wednesday begins, as usual, eating spaghetti at 1 p.m., at Jimmy's Restaurant in Des Plaines, Ill. He's described by friends and family as disorganized, though like many disorganized people, he's a creature of habit: He wakes, drinks coffee, takes a shower, coffee, dresses, coffee, goes to Jimmy's, sits at the bar, never drinks alcohol. Spaghetti on Wednesdays, turkey on Thursdays, halibut on Fridays. This day, across the bar, regulars watch TV. A luge competition is happening somewhere. A young woman enters with bright eye shadow, cat's-eye glasses, argyle sweater. She sidles up to Larsen.

They're friends. She asks if he's off to hang around with naked models in hot tubs.

Larsen rolls his eyes.

He says he has never seen a naked model at work. He works in sleet, rain, heat and snowdrifts. If your hot tub is freezing and about to crack, you get priority. His van is always ready, a 2000 GMC Safari, not so much white as the white of unwashed tennis shoes. In back is a clothing dresser reworked as a parts supply cabinet. On the floor, everything else: wires, receipts, tools. The smell is a pack-a-day stale.

He thinks out loud. "We're going to two clients today. One in Burbank needs a new spa pack, one in Wilmette needs a new pump — let's get that guy's hot tub working again! And by then, it'll be 6 or 7 or later. I did one already today, before Jimmy's. Usually do three a day. Seven days a week. I work sick. I have to. Woman on the South Side been asking me to come out for a month now. Maybe we'll find the time to go out there too."

When I was growing up in New England, I tell him, a spa was a convenience store.

Never heard of that, he says. To him, a spa was a place to get your nails done. First time he worked on a hot tub, the client called it a spa. "When I get there? It was a hot tub."

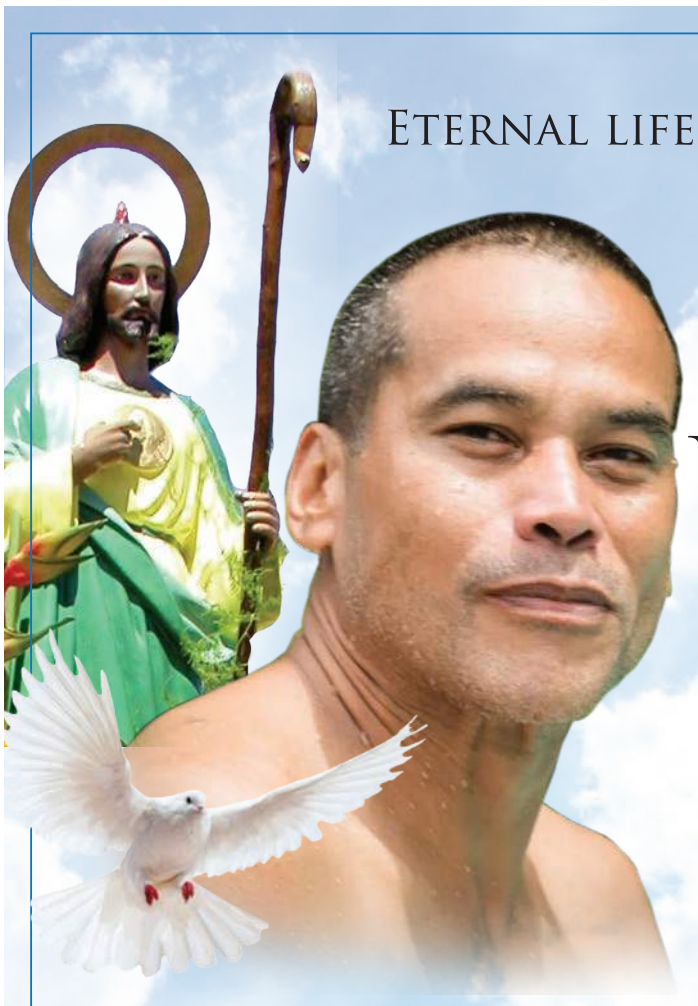
He still sounds surprised.

But like coin-operated arcade games, VCRs and typewriters, the hot tub never entirely vanished. And if you still have one, it will break. Yet Larsen didn't know much about hot tubs when he started fixing them in 2007. He knew what everyone knew: It had been a cultural totem of the 1970s, and like Lululemon workout pants and yoga mats today, certain lifestyle cliches came attached. The hot tub suggested you were, well … open to new ideas. But like everything swallowed by pop culture, its meaning morphed, from lifestyle to therapeutic to, today, a blend of health and parody. Bunny Slope, a new retro-ski lodge bar in the Acme Hotel in River North, offers mulled wine and hot tubs. According to his biographer, Hunter S. Thompson started his day in a hot tub with a Dove Bar, Champagne and a bowl of fettuccine. These images of decadence, however dated, didn't help when the Great Recession struck. The number of hot tubs sold today (about 180,000 a year) is half what it was a decade ago. But the good news, at least for Larsen, is that Illinois is now, surprisingly, the fourth largest hot-tub market in the U.S.

Plus, competition among repairmen is small.

"The hot-tub repairman in Illinois is a lone wolf," said Bob Vanecek, of Berwyn, who has been fixing hot tubs since 1996.


ETERNAL LIFE WITH OUR CREATOR...



†JOAQUIN MANUEL VILLAGOMEZ CEPEDA

was *Born to Life* on September 23, 1969
and *Born to Eternal Life* by Our Merciful and
Loving Father on February 21, 2017

In his new life, he joins his **paternal & maternal grandparents**, Joaquin Duenas & Paulina Babauta Cepeda, Manuel Seman & Luise Pangelinan Villagomez; **cousins** Eric Michael Cepeda Lizama, Manuel Castro Villagomez, Lynricia Cepeda Lizama; **uncles** Ignacio Babauta Cepeda, Joseph Pangelinan Villagomez; **his in-law paternal & maternal grandparents** Juan Charfauros & Joaquina Pangelinan Reyes, Rufina Demapan Palacios

His life-giving love will be cherished by his **wife**, Charlotte Palacios-Reyes Cepeda; children, Erik Michael Reyes Cepeda, Mele'Ani Lynn Reyes Cepeda and Kimo Kyle Palacios Reyes

**In-law Maternal Grandparent:** Francisco "Tan Ko" Muna Palacios

**Parents:** Felix Babauta & Linda Villagomez Cepeda **In-laws:** James Pangelinan & MaryAnne Palacios Reyes

**Brother/sisters and children:** Charles V. & Catherine Sablan-Cepeda (Cyji S. Cepeda/JJ Tenorio, Charles Pablo, Jose), Juliet Myrna C. & Earl Jameson (Jullinda), Tonia Lynn C. & Rodney R. Agulto (Andrew, Blake, Clayton, Damon), Velma Jean & Edward Borja ( Edward Jr.)

**Brother/sister in-law and children:** James Palacios Reyes, Jr. (Chelsy Anne), Krystal Erin Palacios Reyes. & Marc Anthony Sarmiento Chaco

He will also be missed by his numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, godparents, and friends

Daily mass is at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00am and nightly rosary is said at 7:00pm at San Jose Church until Tuesday, February 28, 2017. **On Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017, rosary will be said at 8:00pm.**

Funeral service will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Responso service will be at 8:00 am followed by rosary, public viewing and visitation. **Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:30am** and Internment Service will take place at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

*Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Olomway for your thoughts and prayers,*

*The Family*

*"They that love beyond the world cannot be separated by it. Death cannot kill what never dies." - Williams Penn*

# Life & Style

## Firm says several mistakes caused Oscars best picture gaffe

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—The accounting firm responsible for the integrity of the Academy Awards said Monday that its staffers did not move quickly enough to correct the biggest error in Oscars history—the mistaken announcement of the best picture winner.

PwC, formerly Price Waterhouse Coopers, wrote in a statement that several mistakes were made and two of its partners assigned to the prestigious awards show did not act quickly enough when "La La Land" was mistakenly announced as the best picture winner. Three of the film's producers spoke before the actual winner, the coming-of-age drama "Moonlight," was announced.

"PwC takes full responsibility for the series of mistakes and breaches of established protocols during last night's Oscars," PwC wrote. It said its partner, Brian Cullinan, mistakenly handed presenters Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway an envelope containing the winner of the best actress award.

"Once the error occurred, protocols for correcting it were not followed through quickly enough by Mr. Cullinan or his partner," the statement read.

It did not address in detail which protocols were violated, or say whether a tweet Cullinan sent about best actress winner Emma Stone before the best picture announcement contributed to the mistake.

The firm, which has handled Oscar winner announcements for eight decades, apologized to Beatty, Dunaway, the cast and crew of "La La Land" and "Moonlight," the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and host Jimmy Kimmel.

"We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to each of them for the graciousness they displayed during such a difficult moment," the statement said. "For the past 83 years, the academy has entrusted PwC with the integrity of the awards process during the ceremony, and last night we failed the academy."

The statement came after nearly a day of speculation about how the worst gaffe in Oscars history unfolded. The fiasco launched countless punchlines, memes and a probe of what went wrong.

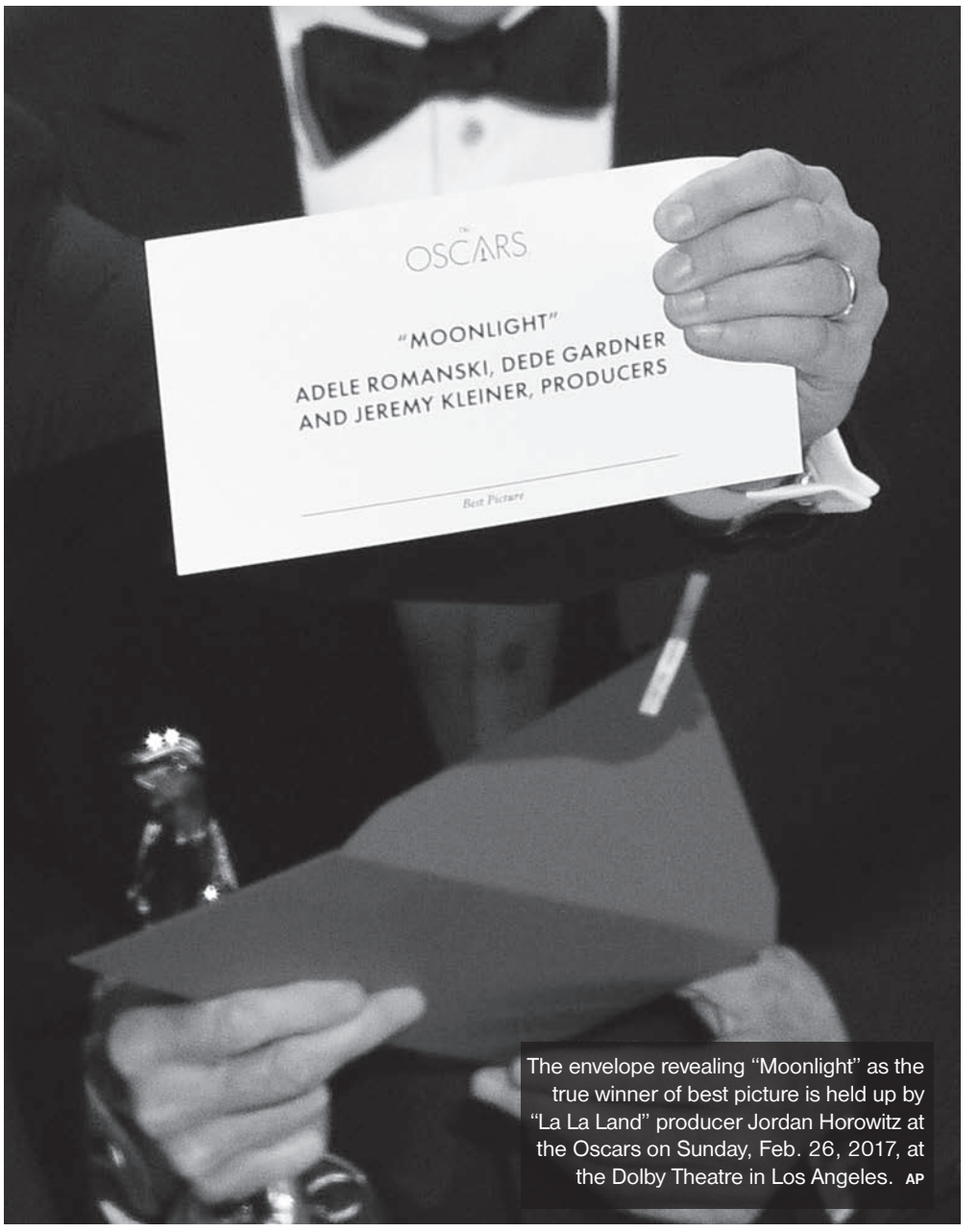
The mystery deepened Monday afternoon after the Wall Street Journal reported that Cullinan tweeted a behind-the-scenes photo of winner Emma Stone holding her statuette. "Best Actress Emma Stone backstage!" the tweet read. The tweet, sent moments before the best picture announcement, raised the question of whether the accountant was distracted from the task at hand. Although the tweet was deleted from the social media site, a copy of it was kept by Google and available through a cache page.

The mistaken announcement altered the usual celebration that follows the coronation of a best picture winner. The only Oscars mistake that came close occurred in 1964, when Sammy Davis was given the wrong envelope for best music score winner but made a quick correction.

The "La La Land"-"Moonlight" mix-up, in contrast, took a painfully long time to be announced, with two-plus minutes elapsing before it was announced to the moviemakers and the world at large.

The embarrassing episode stepped squarely on what should have been a night of high-fiving for the academy. After last year's awards were clouded by the #OscarsSoWhite protests, diversity ruled Sunday as actors Viola Davis ("Fences") and Mahershala Ali ("Moonlight") were among the people of color claiming trophies, while "Moonlight" focused on African-American characters.

PwC, which originated in London over a century ago, was quick to apologize to the movies involved. The academy has not yet commented on the mistake.




The envelope revealing "Moonlight" as the true winner of best picture is held up by "La La Land" producer Jordan Horowitz at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. AP

## Steve Harvey to Beatty: 'I can help you get through this!'

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—If Warren Beatty needs someone to talk to following Sunday night's epic award mix-up at Sunday night's Oscars, Steve Harvey is open ears.

While hosting the Miss Universe pageant in 2015, Harvey accidently named the wrong woman as the winner during the live broadcast. Oscars host Jimmy Kimmel mentioned Harvey's mistake after an apparent envelope mix-up led Beatty and co-presenter Faye Dunaway to hand out the best picture award to "La La Land" instead of the real winner, "Moonlight."

Harvey joked Monday on Twitter that he went to sleep early and asked if he missed anything. He later added: "Call me Warren Beatty. I can help you get through this!"

In this Dec. 20, 2015, file photo, Steve Harvey holds up the card showing the winners after he incorrectly announced Miss Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez at the winner at the Miss Universe pageant in Las Vegas. After an apparent envelope mix-up led Beatty and co-presenter Faye Dunaway to hand out the Oscars' best picture award to "La La Land" instead of the real winner, "Moonlight," on Feb. 26, 2017, Harvey tweeted: "Call me Warren Beatty. I can help you get through this!" AP

## Jimmy Kimmel shares insights on best picture Oscar gaffe

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Oscars host Jimmy Kimmel shared his perspective on the show's best-picture gaffe during his Monday monologue on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

"As I'm sure you've at least heard, 'La La Land' was simultaneously somehow the biggest winner and loser last night," Kimmel said.

Presenters announced "La La Land" as the best picture winner at Sunday's Academy Awards, though "Moonlight" was the actual winner. Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway had been given the best actress envelope to open instead of best picture. The accounting firm responsible for the integrity of the awards has taken responsibility for the error and apologized to all involved.

"It was the weirdest TV finale since 'Lost,'" Kimmel cracked.

He said the plan had been for him to end the Oscar show in the audience, seated next to Matt Damon, when rumblings began that there'd been a mistake.

"We're sitting there and we notice some commotion going on," Kimmel said. "And Matt says, 'I think I heard the stage manager say they got the winner wrong.' ...So you just kind of figure, well, the host will go onstage and clear this up. And then I remember, oh I'm the host."

Three "La La Land" producers gave acceptance speeches before the error was corrected and "Moonlight" received the award.

Kimmel said it was "mass confusion" when he got onstage and no one seemed sure what to do. Then Denzel Washington, sitting in the front row, got Kimmel's attention and shouted, "Barry!"

"Eventually I figured out that Barry Jenkins, the director of 'Moonlight,' is standing behind me and Denzel wanted me to get him to the microphone to make a speech, which makes sense," Kimmel said.

## Trump says Oscars focused hard on politics before 'sad' end

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Donald Trump is giving Sunday's Academy Awards two thumbs down, calling the botched ending "sad."

The president said in an interview with Breitbart News on Monday that the Academy Awards "focused so hard on politics that they didn't get the act together at the end." Pointing to the flubbed awarding of "Moonlight" as the Oscar-winning best picture after initially giving the prize to "La La Land," Trump said, "to end that way was sad."

The president was attending a Governors' Ball at the White House for most of Sunday's awards ceremony. The annual Oscars ceremony carried a political edge throughout the evening, with many winners, presenters and host Jimmy Kimmel taking digs at Trump.

Trump, who was photographed at the Oscars in 2011, said the ceremony "didn't feel like a very glamorous evening." He said the event "was a little sad. It took away from the glamour of the Oscars."

The president has been critical of the Oscars before. In February 2015, he complained that the Oscars ceremony was "absolutely terrible" and "boring" and suggested the "perfect host for next year: Me."

At the end of Sunday's ceremony, presenters Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway apparently took the wrong envelope onto the stage for best picture and mistakenly read "La La Land" as the winner. Kimmel came forward to inform the cast that "Moonlight" had won the prize.

The 32.9 million viewers tuning into Sunday's Academy Awards represented a drop-off of more than a million from last year and Oscar's smallest audience since 2008.

# Sequestered jury from outside area to decide Bill Cosby case

**NORRISTOWN, Pa.** (AP)—A sequestered jury from an outside county will decide the sexual assault case against Bill Cosby, a suburban Philadelphia judge ruled Monday, rejecting a defense request to move the trial because of worldwide media reports that the actor's lawyers say brand him a "serial rapist."

Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill will oversee a June 5 trial over charges Cosby drugged and molested a former Temple University employee in 2004.

The judge's ruling came after lawyers for the 79-year-old TV star argued his trial should be moved to Philadelphia or the Pittsburgh area. The larger, more diverse population would make it easier to find unbiased jurors, lawyer Brian McMonagle argued, but even then, he said, there was no guarantee Cosby could get a fair hearing.

"Unless you've been living under a rock, the message that has been promoted, in insidious fashion, is that Bill Cosby is guilty and that Bill Cosby is a serial rapist," McMonagle said. "I do not believe that there's a place anywhere in this country now where he can receive a fair trial. Not here, not anywhere. I hope I'm wrong."

Prosecutors accused the defense of trying to shop for a jury.

In a court filing, District Attorney Kevin Steele called the pretrial publicity argument "a red herring." He said Cosby couldn't expect to find a jury anywhere that is "oblivious" to the dozens of sex assault accusations lodged against him by Andrea Constand and other accusers.

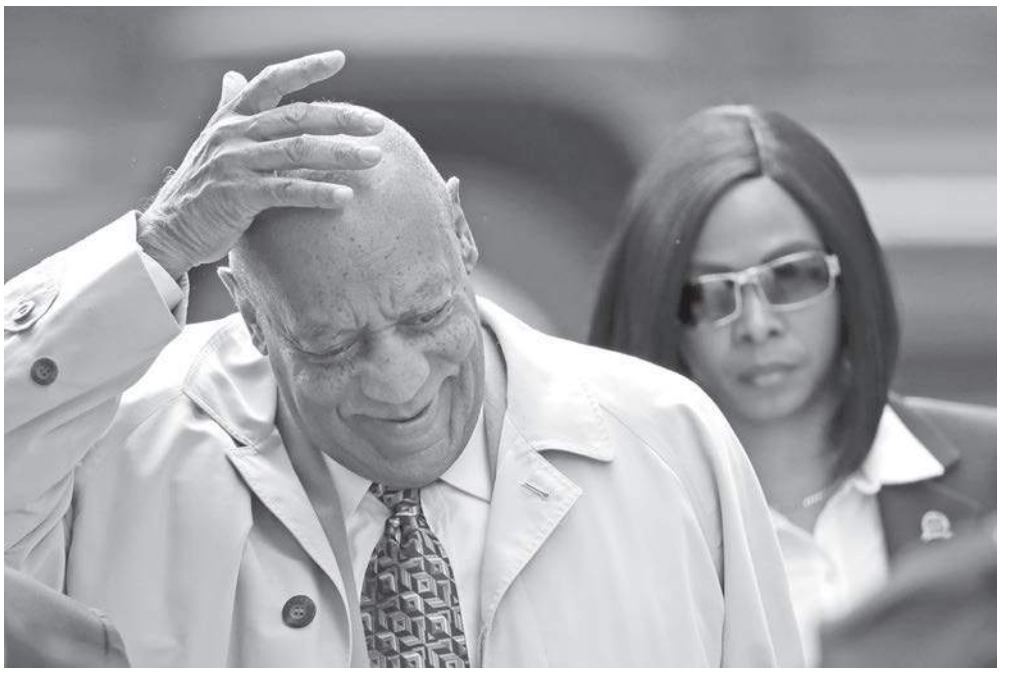
"He's not entitled to a jury that is ignorant of the facts surrounding his case," Steele wrote. "The publicity that necessarily follows the rich and famous cannot insulate them from prosecution."

Prosecutors didn't object to bringing an outside jury to the courthouse in Norristown but fought the bid to move the trial.

They told the judge they could surely find a dozen unbiased jurors in counties with fewer than 1 million people, the size sought by the defense.

"It's not just short on the law but short on logic," Assistant District Attorney M. Stewart Ryan argued.

Cosby has pleaded not guilty to charges he sexually assaulted Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home. The Associated Press doesn't typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they have come forward publicly, as Constand has done.



AP

Bill Cosby arrives for a pretrial hearing in his sexual assault case at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Monday, Feb. 27, 2017, in Norristown, Pa. Monday's hearing comes days after the trial judge ruled that only one other accuser can testify at the scheduled June trial.

## British songwriter accuses U2 of stealing song

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A British songwriter and guitarist is claiming that rock band U2 and lead singer Bono stole one of his songs for their 1991 album "Achtung Baby."

In a lawsuit filed Monday in Manhattan federal court, Paul Rose says U2 lifted elements of his song "Nae Slappin" for their song "The Fly" while they were looking for new inspiration.

The lawsuit says U2 heard his song after signing on with Island Records in 1989, the same year Rose provided a demo tape to recording studio executives.

Rose is seeking songwriting credit for "The Fly" and $5 million in damages and lawyer's fees.

The New York Post reports representatives for U2 and Island Records did not immediately return requests for comment.

# Box Office Top 20: 'Get Out' nets $33.4 million opening

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Comedian Jordan Peele's directorial debut, "Get Out," did even better in its first weekend in theaters than initially projected. The micro budget thriller pulled in $33.4 million—about $3 million higher than what was estimated on Sunday by the studios.

It easily topped the box office and unseated "The Lego Batman Movie" from first place. The "Lego Movie" spinoff earned $19.2 million in its third week in theaters.

Lionsgate's "John Wick: Chapter Two" took the third-place spot with $9.4 million, bringing its total to $74.8 million after three weeks, while "The Great Wall" added $9.1 million in week two. In fifth place, "Fifty Shades Darker" grossed $7.8 million, bumping the picture past the $100 million mark domestically.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore:

1. **"Get Out,"** Universal, $33,377,060, 2,781 locations, $12,002 average, $33,377,060, 1 week.
2. **"The Lego Batman Movie,"** Warner Bros., $19,208,097, 4,057 locations, $4,735 average, $133,214,675, 3 weeks.
3. **"John Wick: Chapter Two,"** Lionsgate, $9,358,982, 2,954 locations, $3,168 average, $74,771,682, 3 weeks.
4. **"The Great Wall,"** Universal, $9,125,960, 3,328 locations, $2,742 average, $34,831,600, 2 weeks.
5. **"Fifty Shades Darker,"** Universal, $7,792,655,3,216 locations, $2,423 average, $103,727,870, 3 weeks.
6. **"Fist Fight,"** Warner Bros., $6,571,348, 3,185 locations, $2,063 average, $23,446,175, 2 weeks.
7. **"Hidden Figures,"** 20th Century Fox, $5,805,737, 2,022 locations, $2,871 average, $152,746,541, 10 weeks.
8. **"La La Land,"** Lionsgate, $4,689,292, 1,733 locations, $2,706 average, $140,949,357, 12 weeks.
9. **"Split,"** Universal, $4,098,990, 1,901 locations, $2,156 average, $130,823,885, 6 weeks.
10. **"Lion,"** The Weinstein Company, $3,832,257, 1,802 locations, $2,127 average, $42,840,594, 14 weeks.
11. **"Rock Dog,"** Lionsgate,$3,704,749, 2,077 locations, $1,784 average, $3,704,749, 1 week.
12. **"A Dog's Purpose,"** Universal, $3,572,435, 2,089 locations, $1,710 average, $57,581,040, 5 weeks.
13. **"MET Opera: Rusalka (2017),"** Fathom Events, $1,540,000, 900 locations, $1,711 average, $1,540,000, 1 week.
14. **"Collide,"** Open Road, $1,512,824, 2,045 locations, $740 average, $1,512,824, 1 week.
15. **"Cure For Wellness, A,"** 20th Century Fox, $1,401,394, 2,704 locations, $518 average, $7,496,644, 2 weeks.
16. **"Moana,"** Disney, $827,436, 378 locations, $2,189 average, $246,027,358, 14 weeks.
17. **"I Am Not Your Negro,"** Magnolia Pictures, $826,126, 313 locations, $2,639 average, $4,681,486, 4 weeks.
18. **"Fences,"** Paramount, $776,093, 597 locations, $1,300 average, $56,552,381, 11 weeks.
19. **"Rings,"** Paramount, $686,936, 719 locations, $955 average, $27,296,410, 4 weeks.
20. **"Moonlight,"** A24, $591,202, 585 locations, $1,011 average, $22,111,526, 19 weeks.

# Woman weighs getting involved in neighborhood case of abuse

DEAR ABBY: I have always tried to be a compassionate person. I have experienced a lot of abuse, and I'm sensitive to others who go through it. A man across the street from me has been arrested three times in the last six months for domestic abuse. I rarely see a woman there, so I don't know if the victim is a woman or a child. I moved into the neighborhood only six months ago. My elderly mother lives here with me.

I'm torn about what to do. My heart says I should reach out to the people who live there and make friends with them. My head says stay out of their business because I don't need the drama.

How do we as a society not turn a blind eye to abuse in our neighborhoods and still protect ourselves and loved ones? I don't want to put my mother or myself in jeopardy, but I don't want the person/people in that house to think they are alone.

NO MORE IN TEXAS

**DEAR NO MORE: While I applaud you for being so caring, for your own safety, I caution you to proceed very slowly in getting to know these people. Some communities provide anonymous tip lines so citizens can report a crime without endangering themselves or their families. The best thing you can do is to keep your eyes open and if something is happening, call the police and report it. If it involves a child, contact child protective services.**

**DEAR ABBY:** My parents and I were always close. However, recently they stole my debit card, my PIN and child support check. They forged my signature and spent the entire check, which was more than $1,000.

I am always lending them money. I have never said no when they needed it. To top it off, they lied to me about the check for an entire month. I only found out when I turned the fraud in to the bank and heard it was my parents who had committed it.

Now my account is frozen and I am wiped out. I have two kids and one on the way, and recently I lost my job. My mother keeps trying to make me feel guilty for turning them in and doesn't understand why I am mad. I am having trouble forgiving them. I am just so angry. Should I forgive them, or do I have the right to be mad?

FORGIVE OR FORGET IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR FORGIVE OR FORGET: One of the hallmarks of abusers is that they try to make their victims think the abuse was in some way their own fault. Your mother fully understands why you are angry. You must not allow her to make you feel guilty.**

**Your parents stole from you and their grandchildren. They appear to have no conscience. Now you know what they are capable of, it is important that you keep your distance from them, or they'll do it again.**

## DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

**DEAR ABBY:** Can an atheist be a godparent?

WONDERING IN WISCONSIN

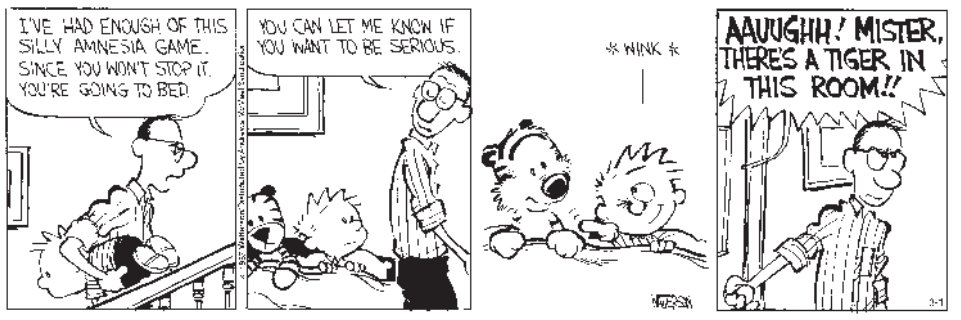
**DEAR WONDERING: Yes. Today, the word "godparent" does not always have explicitly religious overtones. A godparent can be anyone the parents trust to take care of their child in the event of the parents' deaths. However, the potential godparents and the child's parents should discuss this in detail before any decision is made about conferring such an honor and responsibility.**

*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

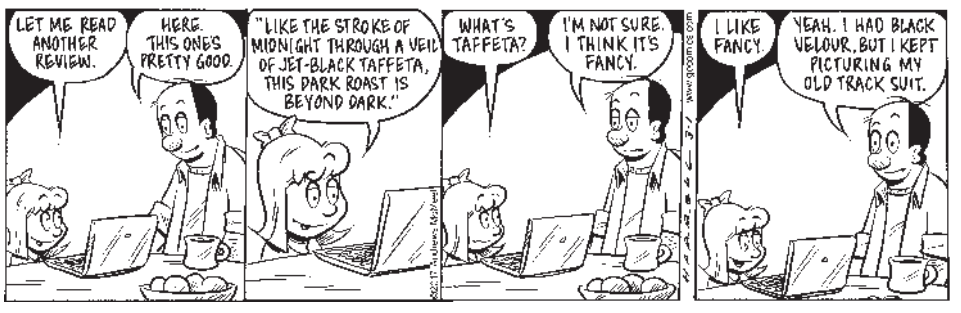

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS SILLY AMNESIA GAME. SINCE YOU WON'T STOP IT, YOU'RE GOING TO BED!
YOU CAN LET ME KNOW IF YOU WANT TO BE SERIOUS.
* WINK *
AAUUGHH! MISTER, THERE'S A TIGER IN THIS ROOM!!

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

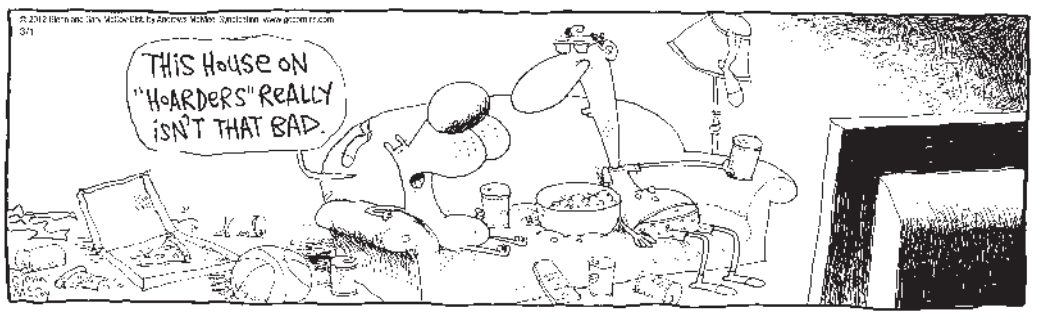
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LET ME READ ANOTHER REVIEW.
HERE. THIS ONE'S PRETTY GOOD.
"I LIKE THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT THROUGH A VEIL OF JET-BLACK TAFFETA, THIS DARK ROAST IS BEYOND DARK."
WHAT'S TAFFETA?
I'M NOT SURE. I THINK IT'S FANCY.
I LIKE FANCY.
YEAH. I HAD BLACK VELOUR, BUT I KEPT PICTURING MY OLD TRACK SUIT.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy




## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Soft shoe, for short
4 Charlotte's creation
7 DVR brand
8 Did an AAA job
10 Baby hooter
11 Brunch fare
13 Social feasts
16 Away from WSW
17 Reddish horses
18 — -Magnon
19 Cracker name
20 Suffix with song or gab
21 Sand formations
23 Chopin piece
25 Aloe —
26 Insult
27 — budget
28 Step
30 — Paulo
33 Poker tournament format
36 Hawaiian garment
37 "Goodness!"
38 Cut corners
39 Poses
40 Sixth sense
41 "Psst!"

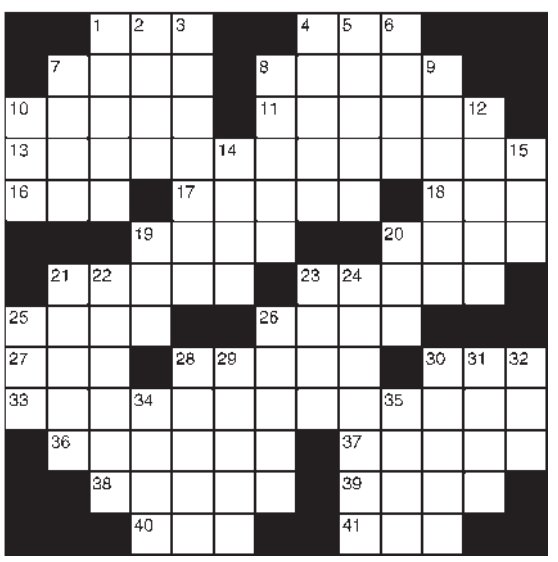
**DOWN**

1 Pooh's creator
2 It takes the cake
3 Exclusive group
4 Female
5 Pitchers
6 Karate level
7 Clone
8 November birthstone
9 Cleared a frosty windshield
10 Poem of praise
12 To the point
14 Decays
15 Drunkard
19 Genetic letters
20 Bear hair
21 Jeans material
22 Seventh planet
23 Lamb alias
24 Type of coffee or bath
25 Pledge
26 Stopped lying?
28 Big rigs
29 Surpass
30 Like seawater
31 Priestly vestments
32 Flamenco cheer
34 Microwave, slangily
35 Writer Wiesel

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | E | C | | B | A | T | | A | S | A | P | | |
| B | O | T | H | | A | R | E | | N | E | M | O | | |
| R | O | N | A | | A | M | A | L | G | A | M | S | | |
| A | M | A | S | S | E | S | | E | L | R | O | Y | | |
| | | | T | A | D | | P | I | E | | | | | |
| A | N | N | C | X | | A | M | A | D | C | U | S | | |
| H | O | F | | | D | A | S | | | F | M | I | | |
| A | M | A | Z | O | N | S | | Y | E | L | P | S | | |
| | | | A | M | A | | S | E | X | | | | | |
| R | E | I | G | N | | A | M | A | ¯ | E | U | R | | |
| A | M | A | R | I | L | L | O | | O | G | R | E | | |
| M | I | M | E | | E | T | C | | R | C | S | A | | |
| S | ¯ | A | B | | O | A | K | | ¯ | S | A | R | | |

Yesterday's answer 3-1



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Justin Bieber, 23; Kesha, 30; Lupita Nyong'o, 34; Ron Howard, 63.

**Happy Birthday:** You'll be torn between what you want to do and what you have to do. Handle your affairs with finesse. Get organized and prepare to take care of your responsibilities swiftly. Freeing up time to embrace the projects, people and activities that bring you joy will make this a year to remember instead of one filled with regret. Your numbers are 9, 11, 23, 27, 31, 34, 45.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19)*: You've got the drive to do something spectacular. Gather information and set up meetings. Set your sights on your goals and do your best to explore new possibilities. If you want something, go after it wholeheartedly. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20)*: Deal with matters pertaining to your private finances, medical history or government agencies with caution. Refuse to let anyone back you into a compromising corner. Make concise statements and keep moving forward. Call in a favor. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20)*: Take care of the important details of your occupation. How well you work with others will make a difference to the outcome of a situation you face at work or within another group you belong to. Romance is highlighted.

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22)*: Someone will try to take over or bully you into something you should have no part of. Don't let anyone take advantage of you or pressure you into something you don't want to do. Avoid indulgence and impulsiveness. ✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Short trips, personal pick-me-ups and celebrating your good fortune with someone you love are featured. Opportunities will be abundant, and taking advantage of what's available will put you in a stellar position. Don't let a bully stand in your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: Self-criticism will do you good and bring about alterations to the way you do things. Limit your expenditures and try not to overindulge in food and drink. Emotional situations will turn sour if you or someone else overreacts. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Learn from those with more experience than you. Cooperation will work to your advantage when seeking advancement. Personal and business partnerships look promising once you get past divvying up responsibilities. Maintaining balance in your life will lead to success. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: You'll be tempted by what someone offers you. Do your best to impress your employer or other talented people in your field. Mingle, network and show off your talent, expertise and willingness to go the distance. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Communication, travel and obtaining accurate information will be a challenge. Stick to the people you know and focus on improving your personal relationships. An opportunity will come out of nowhere. Know your assets and your limitations. ✪✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Pressure will be put on you to take action before you are ready to participate. Don't feel obligated to align yourself with anyone who appears unstable. Believe in your ability to rise on your own merit. ✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: A joint venture will change your life. Take the initiative to put your plans in motion. Personal and professional gains can be made by using your unique skills to bring about new opportunities. Physical improvements can be made. ✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Make decisions instead of taking orders. Be creative and look for alternative ways to live your life. Don't give in to peer pressure. Use your imagination and create the life that inspires you to be your best. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are thoughtful, original and progressive. You are passionate and proactive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

# SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | 7 | 4 | | | | 9 | 5 |
| | | 6 | 9 | 1 | | 3 | 7 | |
| | | | | 6 | | 2 | | |
| | | | 1 | 4 | 7 | | | |
| | | 8 | | | | 1 | | |
| 9 | 4 | | 2 | | | | 3 | |
| 6 | | | | | | | 2 | |
| | 9 | 2 | 6 | | | | 5 | |
| | | | 5 | 2 | | | 1 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3:01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 1 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| 9 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 |

Difficulty Level ★★

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

**ZSA ZSA GABOR (1917-2016)** **Solution: 11 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | R | E | B | U | A | T | R | E | B | R | E | H | E | X |
| T | J | A | C | K | O | O | L | O | V | E | D | H | T | N |
| I | N | D | S | R | E | D | N | U | O | R | U | L | E | A |
| C | E | G | T | R | A | C | S | E | C | N | A | R | F | K |
| O | D | A | A | R | A | H | O | E | G | H | N | F | I | E |
| N | S | M | N | S | Y | C | L | A | N | R | A | L | L | D |
| S | O | O | A | T | A | A | R | A | V | S | M | A | R | T |
| T | C | R | S | Y | J | Y | N | E | M | I | T | I | Ⓨ | R |
| A | I | N | R | L | J | O | S | H | U | A | A | R | Ⓓ | U |
| N | R | O | E | E | V | G | L | O | V | E | B | O | Ⓐ | T |
| C | E | T | D | Z | A | E | M | I | C | H | A | E | Ⓛ | H |
| E | D | L | N | L | J | O | H | N | E | R | O | B | A | G |
| P | E | I | A | I | G | R | E | N | T | U | H | A | S | N |
| E | R | H | S | L | E | G | L | E | B | U | R | H | A | N |
| P | F | E | L | I | P | E | D | E | A | L | B | A | F | T |

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Alec, Asaf, Batman, Belge, Burhan, Cars, City, Conrad, Constance, Cosden Jr., Felipe DeAlba, Flair, Francesca, Frederic, Gabor, George, Herbert, Hilton, Hungary, Hutner, Jack, John, Jolie, Joshua, Lady, Life, Lili, Look, Loveboat, Loved, Magda, Michael, Naked Truth, O'Hara, Pepe, Prinz Von Anhalt, Rounders, Ryan, Sanders, Sari, Smart, Style, Tauber, Time

**Yesterday's Answer: Woods**

**Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

**Blue Star Corporation**
**(1) Tour Coordinator**
• Can Speak Korean and English
• At Least 3 Years Experience

**MAC's Marine**
**(1) Maintenance Repairer**
- Knowledgeable in Fiber Glassing
- At least 3 Years Experience
**(2) Commercial Diver**
- Can Speak Japanese and English
- At least 3 Years Experience in Scuba Diving

**Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos**
**Contact Number: 322-6227**

WHATZIT Solution: Thereby hangs a tale

share the power of a wish.
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at: Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive. ITC Bldg, Suite 109
Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474 • Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org
Saipan Tribune

**Looking for Marlon L. Borito**
**Anyone know him or see him,**
**Please ask him to call**
**233-3988**
**Chinese association of Saipan,**
**Someone looking for him.**

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**ACCOUNTANT**
Must be college graduate with degree in Accounting or Business Administration and has minimum of 5 to 8 years experience in communication business.

Computer literate, expertise in Microsoft office applications and accounting softwares. Knowledge in preparation of financial reports, tax, budget, forecast, billings. Proficient in verbal and written communication.

Interested applicants can send resume to Choice Radio, Inc. P.O. Box 501750 Saipan, MP 96950.

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

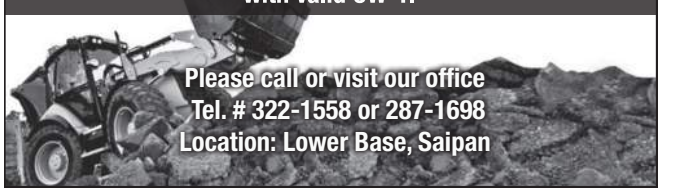
**(2) Embroiderer.** Must be able to do embroidery. Must be able to sew/embroider garments, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Assemble garment parts and join parts with basting stitches, using needles and thread or sewing machines. Program machine to be able to embroider a specific design. Knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in production of precision. Must have a 1-2 years experience in embroidery. Knowledgeable of principles and methods of Embroidery. Multi-tasking. Can work on longer hours. Good eyesight.

Qualified US Citizen applicants may send resume/bio-data at
hr.islandapparel@gmail.com
No phone calls please.
Island Apparel
P.O. Box 502912, Saipan MP 96950

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORP.**
dba M & R Construction

**Two (2) Heavy Equipment Operator**
**Can operate the ff: American truck, Backhoe, Payloader, Excavator**
**US citizens preferred but will welcome workers with valid CW-1.**



**Please call or visit our office**
**Tel. # 322-1558 or 287-1698**
**Location: Lower Base, Saipan**

## SAIPAN MARINE CORP.

## TEMPORARY JOB OPENING

Saipan Marine Corp. is inviting interested U.S. Citizens, U.S. Green Card holders and FAS work authorized citizens with 2 years Ship repair experience to apply for employment with us.

Our job categories include but are not limited to:

**(6) Painter/Blaster**
**(8) Marine Mechanics**
**(4) Electrician**
**(6) Welders/Fitter**
**(4) Pipefitter**

We are equal opportunity employer and comply with all CNMI laws relevant to employment. All qualified candidates will receive serious consideration.

Apply in person at:
**Saipan Marine Corp.**
Ground Floor, CPA Building
Commercial Port Avenue, Puerto Rico
Saipan MP 96950

## BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC
## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

### (01) KHMER TRANSLATOR (Full-time)

**Job Purpose:**
Directly assists the company with translation coordination activities and engagement with internal and external resources to support projects in the Khmer PDR.

**Duties:**
- Translate various documents to and from Khmero to English for use in project management and litigation.
- Identify useful information in the documents and communicate that information to internal management.
- Sort mail.
- Type memos and envelopes.
- Prepare documents and packages for mail or shipping related to Lao projects.
- Scan, rename, and file Khmer documents on server.
- Performs other clerical and administrative duties, as needed

**Skills/Qualifications:**
- Must have fluency in Khmer and English.
- Previous translation experience is preferred.
- Excellent verbal/written communication skills.
- Great attention to detail.
- Competency with Microsoft Office required

*No phone calls please. Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan, or email to tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be Friday, March 3, 2017 at 4:00 pm.*

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Medical Sales Representative**

**Required Qualifications:**
- U.S. accredited Bachelor's Degree in: Medical Technology, Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, Biochemistry or related science or medical field.
- Minimum of 2 years experience in the field of Sales of pharmaceuticals, dialysis supplies and equipment, medical supplies and equipment, laboratory reagents and equipment.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills and a good command of the English language. Non-native speakers may be requested to present satisfactory TOEFL or IELTS scores. Experienced in maintaining and monitoring inventories for medical supplies and equipment, dialysis supplies and equipment, and pharmaceuticals.
- Experienced in handling medical equipment and supplies, dialysis equipment and supplies, laboratory reagents and equipment.
- Capable of preparing and presenting weekly sales reports, monthly inventory reports, and market analysis reports using Quickbooks 2013 or other similar accounting software.
- Must be available to work during nights, weekends, and holidays.
- Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license

Interested applicants may email a copy of their resume and police clearance to ruth.feril@medpharmusa.net or fax to 670-235-5418.

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

*Saipan Tribune's* Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

*Saipan Tribune* also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

| ADS | (PRINT) | COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---|---|---|
| • 3-Liner | $15 | $30 |
| • 5-Liner | $24 | $45 |

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

## FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant position

Laundry Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year work experience as a laundry worker is preferred. Must be able to lift and push up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Must be able to stand on feet for long period of time. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays.

Housekeeping Cleaner (9)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Minimum of 6 months work experience in a hotel Is preferred. Able to speak and write English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus . Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects.

Tailor / Seamstress (1)
Qualifications: Measures, makes or alters uniforms for new employees. Repairs and maintain uniforms for all hotel employees. Organize and take inventory for all fabric materials, perform other duties as may be assigned by immediate superior. Must have 2 years tailoring experience. Is able to work well under pressure in a fast pace environment. Must be able to work flexible schedule including holidays.

Executive Chef (1)
Qualifications: Responsible for all food purchase specifications and recipes including that used for restaurants, banquet functions and other outlets. Develop and monitor food and labor budget for the department. Interview, select, train, supervise, counsel and discipline all employees in the department. Maintain highest professional food quality and sanitation standards. 2 years previous experience as executive chef in a high volume hotel or large restaurant. Strong interpersonal , communication and organizational skills are essential.

Wait Staff (1) – China Market
Duties/Responsiblities: Take orders and serve food and beverage to patrons at tables in dining establishment. Check with customers to ensure that they are enjoying their meals and take action to correct any problems. Memorize orders to enter orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff.
Requirements: High school graduate, GED or equivalent required. Must have ability to calculate figures, volumes and mathematical conversions. Ability to respond to common inquiries and complaints from customers. Ability to write and speak clearly and effectively in English and Chinese is required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained and submitted to our Security Office located on the South Wing of Fiesta Resort & Spa. Deadline for submission of applications to be considered is March 3, 2017.

**Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**
**Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.**

Customers First
TRIPLE J RESTAURANT GROUP
*is now accepting applications for experienced:*

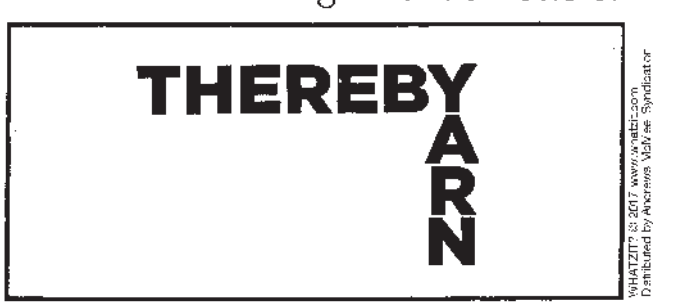
- ASSISTANT CHEF
- ASSISTANT CHEF HELPER
- BAKER
- SERVERS
- FRONT DESK CLERK
- HOUSEKEEPING PROFESSIONAL

No phone calls please, email resume to:
**hrtjsaipan@triplejsaipan.com**

***Triple J offers competitive benefits and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.***

## WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.




www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

## Commonwealth Development Authority

2nd Floor CDA Bldg., Oleai, Saipan
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245 Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**POSITION VACANCY:** Comptroller, Ungraded
**ANNUAL SALARY:** Up to $70,000
**CLOSING DATE:** March 3, 2017

This position is an excepted service position. The incumbent in this position shall manage the Accounting Department and provide information primarily in nature to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. The incumbent shall also perform other functions as the Executive Director and the Board of Directors may require.

**GENERAL DUTIES**

- Oversees the activities of the Accounting Department for the accurate and timely dissemination of financial management reports including but not limited to, internal and external financial statements productions.
- Keeps the official books and accounts of the Authority
- Prepares an annual report of the financial condition of the Authority for the Board Directors.
- Prepares response to audit exceptions and recommend alternative solutions.
- Approves all accruals and journal entries for posting to the general ledger.
- Supervises and reviews the work of the accounting staff to assure the CDA's financial records are properly maintained and recorded.
- Tracks all of CDA's investments and make recommendations to increase income.
- Prepares and monitors in conjunctions with Bond Trustee designated Trust Department Officer a schedule of investments within the guidelines established by the Trust Agreement and the CDA Act with scheduled maturity dated to provide the quality of funds to meet the CNMI capital improvement projects local matching funds requirements. Said plan to be concurred by the Executive Director.
- Prepares financial statements and other documents as directed by the Executive Director and/or the Chairman of the Board during the development and underwriting of any bond issue.
- Maintains a profit and loss statement on all Bond issues and Trust Funds.
- Participates in a wide variety of special projects and compile a variety of special reports as requested by the Board of Directors.
- Reviews all CIP contracts and determine if fund certification is appropriate.
- Maintains financial records of all capital improvement projects funded by CDA and/or those for which CDA provided any local matching funds.
- Attends all CDA and DCD meetings.
- Establishes and maintain systems and controls which verify the integrity of all systems, process, and data.
- Provides training for the accounting employees.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

**EDUCATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS / SKILLS**

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from a U.S. accredited college or university. Minimum of five (5) years of professional experience in government or financial accounting. U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred but not required. Must have knowledge of QuickBooks accounting software; Able to make legislative presentations and to interpret laws, contracts, ordinances, and regulations; Effectively communicate orally and in writing; Possesses a strong management skills; Proficient in MS Office applications; and Able to establish and maintain cooperative working relationship with others.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with employment application form, during regular working hours at the CDA Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai or may be obtained on CDA's website at www.developcnmi.com.

**Applicants are requested to submit their application and supporting documents to the Office of Personnel Management.**

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 extension 310 or by e-mail at c.kintol@developcnmi.com.

## AM Machine Shop & Car Airconditioning

(3) Machinist - must have 3 years experience. Knowledgeable in Modifying & Fabrication any parts Metallic & Non Metallic

## AQUAVILLE INC.

**(1) Operation Manager**
- Can Speak Korean, Chinese, and English
- At least 4 Years Experience in Managing Marine Sports Activities

**(1) Sales Advertising Agent**
- At least 3 Years Experience

**Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos**
**Contact Number: 323-0102**

## Auto Marine Incorporation

**(2) Commercial Diver**
- Can Speak Japanese and English
- At least 3 Years Experience in Scuba Diving

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE – HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY & LUBRICANTS**

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful Sales record. Preferably with an Associate's degree in Sales & Marketing. Sales experience with hotel, F&B, and restaurants together with knowledge of their inventory supply operations an advantage. Knowledge of petroleum lubricants a plus. Proven good track record in product marketing and excellent customer service is required. Must be proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word and Outlook. Must provide own reliable transport and must be able to meet monthly sales targets. Must be able to lift 50lbs. Extensive contacts in various businesses and industries an advantage. Available to work evenings, holidays or weekends as needed.

Interested applicants must submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by March 14, 2017. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment.
Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

Century Hotel is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following vacant positions:

**(5) GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years work experience as a handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with a central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid CNMI driver's license is required. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment of the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends and nights. High School diploma or equivalent.

Application may be picked up and submitted to Fiesta Resort's security office located in the South Wing. A drug test must be passed as a condition of employment.
**Closing date: March 3, 2017**

**Century Hotel is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**
Qualified Women, Minorities Veterans and persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**(4) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS**
Must have at least 5 years work experience in telecommunication business. Knowledge and expertise in programming and repair of iDEN communication handsets. Must have experience in working on telecommunications field equipment and structures. Computer literate and must have good communication skills.

**(1) SALES MANAGER**
Must be a College graduate and has a minimum of 5 years experience in telecommunication business. Must have the knowledge in managing daily business operations, handling administrative, sales and treasury. Proficient in verbal and written communication skills. Computer literate and expertise in Microsoft Office applications.

**(1) TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN**
Must have at least 5 years work experience in the telecommunications trade. Knowledge and expertise in analyzing engineering computer, RF systems and other iDEN telecom related equipment to maintain and improve current telecommunication system. Must have good communication skills.

** Interested applicants can send resume to:
Choice Radio, Inc. P.O. Box 501750, Saipan, MP 96950

SUBSCRIBE TO THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER. PLEASE CALL 235-NEWS

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accounting and Circulations Manager (1)
College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management and newspaper circulation experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management and newspaper circulation activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage a work team and independent contractors. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. CPA not required.

Associate Editor (1)
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Coordinator (1)
Associates degree with a minimum of 2 years progressively responsible work experience. Requirements include professional customer service and good driving skills. Must be able to routinely lift and move bundles of newspapers up to 50 lbs.

Graphic Designer (3)
Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

Art Director (1)
Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related course. Minimum 5 years work experience in computer graphic and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must Must be able to assigns and directs staff members to develop design concepts into art layouts. Reviews and approves art and copy materials developed by staff, and proofs of printed copy. Presents final layouts.

Managing Editor (1)
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course. At least 8 years progressive journalism and newspaper management experience with a strong story evaluation and production background. Must have rigorous proofreading skills and able to meet tight deadlines. Knows how to use InDesign or Quark Express and must be adept in the various technical aspects of newspaper publishing.

Reporters (2)
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills. Must have own reliable transportation

Sports Reporter (1)
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English or any related course; At least 2 years experience in sports writing. Above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar and syntax. Must be able to write stories based on score sheets. Can work fast within deadlines and in a stressful environment. Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player. Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on a short notice. Must be computer literate and have photography skills. Must have own reliable transportation.

Accountant (1)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Advertising Sales Agent (1)
Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in a printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 9, 2017.

**L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**
**Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.**

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountants (1)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management, payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Accounting Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree in Business Administration major in accounting with a minimum 5 years experience in insurance financial management and possess good management ability. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SAP R3 FICO system, and the insurance Geniisys program. Must possess good understanding of government and regulatory compliance procedures and requirements, excellent communication skills, as well as experience in interpreting financial reports. Preparation of NAIC Annual & Quarterly Statements, knows how to understand actuarial reports. Auditing experience is an advantage.

General Manager (1)
Bachelor's Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, with at least 5 years experience as a General or Operations Manager position in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing, technical underwriting, including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions, with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves undertaking of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

System Analyst (1)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance database and program – GENIISYS and an in-depth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, March 9, 2017.

**L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**
**Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.**

Workforce Solutions, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Management Accountant (2)
College degree with accounting or financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in analyzing, interpreting and providing sound financial information. Must be adept in monthly financial statement preparation and consolidation, cash flow forecasting, budgeting, and providing financial projections. Must have excellent communication, organizational and self-management skills. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft Excel, Power Point and Project. CPA not required.

Building Cleaner (4)
High School Diploma or equivalent. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: detailed oriented, responsible. Interpersonal skills. Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina. Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days

Accountant (5)
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Business Development Manager (1)
Graduate of a 4-year degree course with an Accounting or Financial Management major and at least 5 years of progressive financial and business management experience. Minimum of 3 years general management experience preferably in a financing or banking institution. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software and Microsoft software. Should possess a solid track record of accomplishing business objectives.

Accounting Manager (1)
College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Accounting Supervisor (1)
A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a focus in accounting and/or finance. 2-3 years of progressive responsibility supervising a minimum of 3 associates. CPA/CPA candidate a plus. Audit experience also preferred. Must have knowledge with the use of SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge of Excel is a must.

Administrative Assistant (2)
Associate's Degree with 2 years experience of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Messenger (2)
High school graduate. Must be able to keep track of multiple documents and itemize. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Good oral and written communication skills and good driving skills are required. Must provide and maintain own vehicle for work and have a valid driver's license. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities (4)
High school diploma or GED Certificate plus experience working in sports organization or sports facilities. Must be computer literate: Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook. Applicant must have good written and oral communication skills. Can work flexible hours and available on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic (2)
Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

HR & Administrative Assistant (1)
Associate's Degree. Must have knowledge of principles and procedures for personnel recruitment, selection, benefits and personnel information systems. Ability to work in confidential related matters, self-directed and be able to multi-task in a fast paced environment. With a minimum of 2 years work experience in an administrative role and accounting experience. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Vice President (1)
Graduate of 4-year degree course with a minimum of 10 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 5 years of general management experience in property management or hotel management, and tourism & cargo business experience for Korean Market. Proficient in English & Korean (reading, writing, speaking). Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Electrician (1)
High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

General Maintenance Worker (11)
High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Network Administration Manager (1)
Associate's degree in any computer science, information engineering or other computer technology related areas. Must have at least 5 years of sound experience in local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, planning, designing, implementation, and user support. Must have knowledge in MS Exchange Email Server.

Engineering Manager (1)
Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Ability to successfully develop, implement and manage projects including the ability to provide effective leadership is a must. Adeptness in cost estimation and knowledge of quality control and federal regulations in environmental and occupational safety hazards is required. The duties of this job require constant outside travel and exposure to outside weather conditions. Must be able to provide his/her own transportation and must have a valid driver's license.

Sales Officer (1)
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Legal Secretary (2)
Associates degree and at least 2 years work related experience in a legal office. Proficient in case and document management software, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Familiar in preparation and filing of pleadings and legal documents.

Corporate Paralegal Officer (1)
Bachelor's degree in paralegal studies or in any related field. Minimum of 3 years experience providing sound legal research, reliable litigation support and preparation of legal documents, pleadings and contracts. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with Lexis - Nexis and Pacer - ECF is required.

IT Manager (1)
College degree with a major in computer science, computer technology or information engineering or other related areas is required. At least 5 years of progressive management experience and 8 years of sound and all-around IT technical experience is required. Must have well-developed written/oral and management skills and with a strong background in all IT hardware, software and communication business requirements.

Computer Technician (1)
Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone cables/systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer (1)
Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand.

Programmer Analyst (1)
Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming and at least 3 years of work-related experience in a professional Microsoft Windows environment. Strong practical knowledge in relational databases management particularly in midrange RDMS environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

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Interested applicants may send their resumes to workforcesolutions.recruitment@gmail.com.
To be considered, applications or resumes must
be submitted not later than 5:00 pm, Friday, March 10, 2017.

**Workforce Solutions, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**
**Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.**

Workforce Solutions, Inc. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Logistics Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Accounting Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course in accounting with at least 5 years experience in financial management: directing the preparation of financial reports; implementing cash management; and directing investment activities for a logistics supply chain business operations. Must have excellent written communication and analysis skills for financial data reporting. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics software are a must. Expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point is required. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Sales & Marketing Manager
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Sales or Marketing or any Business course and at least 3 years of managerial work experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Accountant
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 3 years work experience in financial management for a logistics/supply chain business or agency operations. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics systems. Must have expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Storage and Distribution Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of ladings, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Cargo and Freight Agent (5)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

Specialized Truck Driver (6)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (4)
Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

Accounting Clerk
High School graduate, GED, Associates degree or equivalent with at least 2-3 years bookkeeping or clerical accounting work experience in freight forwarding operation, sales or service related work. Associate Degree in Accounting, Auditing, Business Management or Finance an advantage. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Word Processor and Spreadsheet; and proficient with Accounting software such as SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) system, ERP system, and HR2 system).

Truck Mechanic
Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Automotive Body Repairer
Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

Janitor
Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

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A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience.
Interested applicants may send their resumes to workforcesolutions.recruitment@gmail.com.
To be considered, applications or resumes must
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# Despite cold Curry, Durant and Warriors beat 76ers

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Stephen Curry is surrounded by stars with the Golden State Warriors. He's never needed them more than Monday night.

Kevin Durant had 27 points in his return to the lineup and the Warriors overcame the worst 3-point shooting performance of Curry's career in a 119-108 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

Curry was 0 for 11 from 3-point range. That topped his previous worst outing without making a 3 when he went 0 for 10 from distance on Nov. 4 against the Lakers. The two-time reigning MVP leads the league by a wide margin with 231 3-pointers this season.

"On a night like tonight where Steph doesn't have it going, we have a lot of other guys who can score and make plays," coach Steve Kerr said. "A lot of them came through."

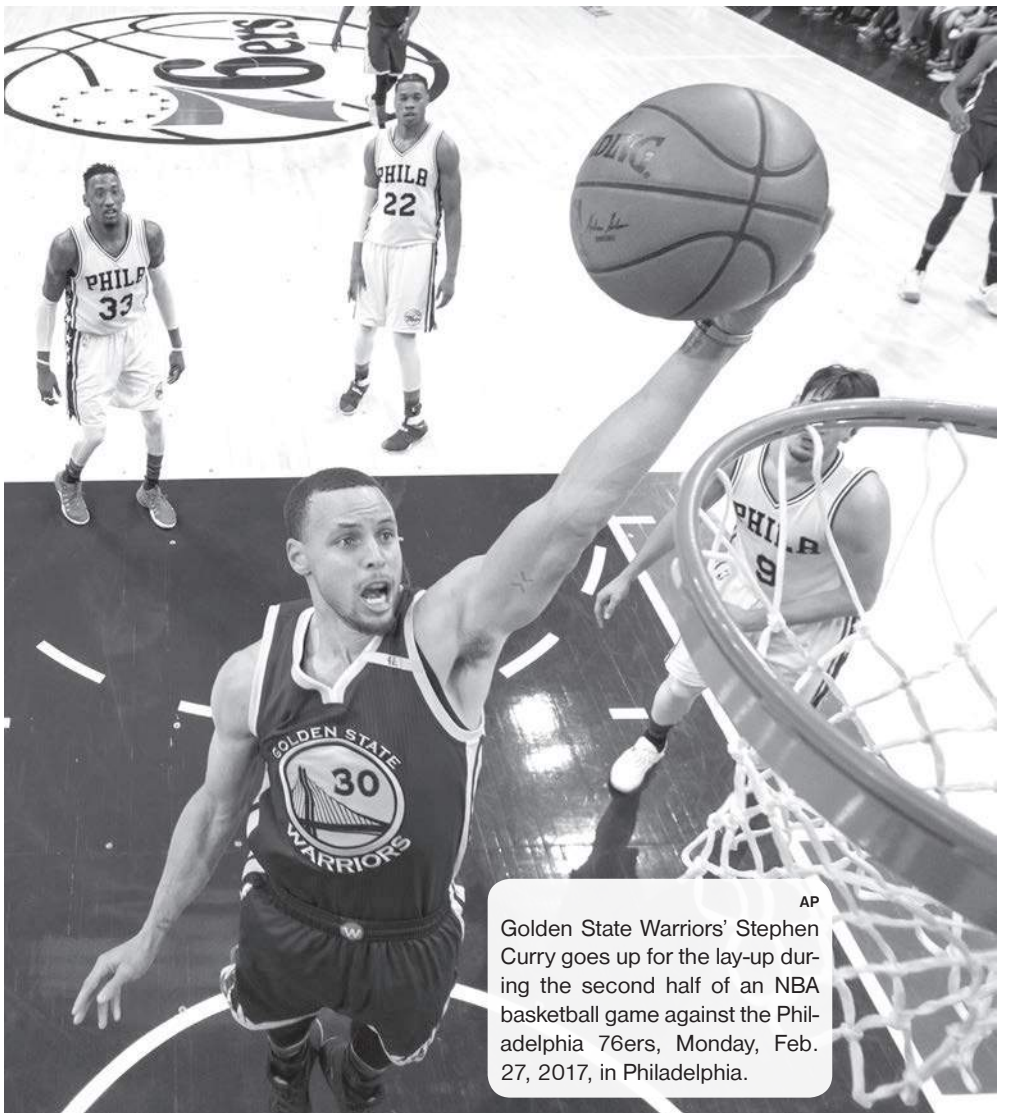
Curry still had 19 points, making 7 of 12 2-point attempts and all five of his free-throw tries.

"I forgot to adjust to the thickness of the air," Curry joked, adding that "it happens, but you have to find other ways to impact the game."

Klay Thompson scored 21 points and Draymond Green had 14 points, 11 assists, six rebounds and five steals for the Warriors, who opened a five-game East Coast trip by winning their fourth straight and boosting their NBA-best record to 50-9. Durant returned after missing a game with a right hand injury.

"There are games where the shots just aren't falling," Green said. "It was a good effort by everybody to chip in. Sometimes it has to be a complete team effort, and tonight it was."

Dario Saric had 21 points for Philadelphia, which once again played without big man Joel Embiid. The 76ers announced earlier Monday that Embiid would be out indefinitely after experiencing swelling and soreness in his left knee following recent practices. Embiid leads the team with 20.2 points and 7.8 rebounds per game but has missed 14 straight games and 17 of the last 18.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry goes up for the lay-up during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers, Monday, Feb. 27, 2017, in Philadelphia.

The Warriors took control in the third quarter, using a 12-3 run over the first 2:31 of the period to turn a three-point halftime edge into a 71-59 cushion. The lead grew to 84-70 with 3:41 left in the third on Durant's two free throws.

Philadelphia tried to make it a game, but Golden State had too much firepower, even as it made just 6 of 29 from deep.

"That's the dangerous part of picking a game plan," 76ers coach Brett Brown said. "When you take away something, something else gets exposed. It's hard to guard everything. That's the Holy Grail, what they have."

### Cavaliers 102, Bucks 95

In Cleveland, LeBron James returned from a bout of strep throat and scored 24 points while Kyrie Irving added 25 as Cleveland held off Milwaukee.

James missed Saturday's loss to Chicago — the Cavs fell to 0-4 this season without their superstar — and was listed as questionable before arriving at Quicken Loans Arena. He looked fit from the start, delivering an early dunk and adding one in the fourth that he capped by screaming, "That's and one!" at MiIwaukee's John Henson, who fouled him.

James' dunk triggered an 11-0 run that helped put away the Bucks, who were within 86-85 midway through the fourth.

Malcolm Brogdon scored 20 to lead Milwaukee, and Bucks All-Star Giannis Antetokounmpo scored just nine on 4-of-13 shooting.

The Bucks may have sustained a costly injury as forward Michael Beasley sprained his left knee in the first half.

### Raptors 92, Knicks 91

In New York, DeMar DeRozan made a turnaround jumper with 1.9 seconds remaining to finish with 37 points and lift Toronto over New York.

The Raptors won their fourth in a row, doing it with DeRozan and defense after learning earlier in the day that All-Star Kyle Lowry will have right wrist surgery that could sideline him for the rest of the regular season.

Carmelo Anthony scored 24 points for the Knicks but finished a 9-for-26 night when he missed a long jumper as time expired.

Newcomers Serge Ibaka and P.J. Tucker were on the floor down the stretch as the Raptors clawed back from a 17-point first-half deficit. Ibaka finished with 15 points.

### Hawks 114, Celtics 98

In Boston, Dennis Schroder had 21 points to help Atlanta snap a three-game losing streak with a chippy win over Boston.

Paul Millsap and Dwight Howard each added 17 points. The Hawks led by 13 entering the fourth quarter and increased the edge to 24 despite playing the final 16 minutes without Howard, who was ejected in the third quarter after receiving his second technical foul.

Isaiah Thomas had 19 points as the Celtics ended a seven-game home winning streak.

Boston was off all night offensively, despite the return of guard Avery Bradley to the starting lineup after missing 22 of the previous 23 games with a right Achilles tendon injury.

Bradley was on a minutes' restriction, logging 15 while scoring six points.

### Pacers 117, Rockets 108

In Houston, Jeff Teague scored 25 points as Indiana overcame a huge first-half deficit and withstood a late rally by Houston.

C.J. Miles made a 3-pointer with 40.8 seconds left to make it 113-108, and Teague made a pair of free throws after that to put the game out of reach. It was just the second win in nine games for the Pacers and only their 10th road win of the season.

The Pacers rallied from 17 down in the first half and were up by 14 with about four minutes left. The Rockets used a 12-2 run to get within two with less than a minute remaining. Lou Williams was fouled while making an off-balance 3 to cap the run, but missed the ensuing free throw. Miles followed with his 3.

Williams had 28 points to lead the Rockets. James Harden added 25 points with 12 assists.

### Mavericks 96, Heat 89

In Dallas, Seth Curry scored 29 points and Harrison Barnes added 24 as Dallas handed Miami its third loss in 19 games.

Curry looked a little like famous older brother Stephen Curry of Golden State by hitting two long 3-pointers in the second half, the latter giving Dallas a 90-89 lead. The Mavericks rallied from 14 points down in the first quarter and let an 11-point third-quarter lead get away.

Two games after scoring a career-high 31 points in a loss at Minnesota, Curry was 5 of 7 from long range to help the Mavericks improve to 2-0 with forward-center Nerlens Noel, who came from Philadelphia before the trade deadline.

Goran Dragic scored 24 points for the Heat, who went scoreless over the final 4:37 as a three-game winning streak ended.

### Timberwolves 102, Kings 88

In Sacramento, California, Karl-Anthony Towns had 29 points and 17 rebounds and Andrew Wiggins scored 27 points to help the Minnesota Timberwolves beat the Sacramento Kings 102-88 on Monday night.

Ricky Rubio had nine points and 11 assists to help the Timberwolves move within one game of the Kings as both teams try to catch Denver for the eighth spot in the West.

Towns and Wiggins were dominant against the Kings, who had beaten the Wolves handily in the first two games between the teams this season.

Towns shot 13 of 19 from the floor and sparked a big run in the second quarter when Minnesota took control. Wiggins exploited a size advantage against Sacramento and repeatedly scored inside.

Kosta Koufos had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Sacramento. The Kings are 1-2 since trading All-Star DeMarcus Cousins to New Orleans during the All-Star break.

# Pelicans searching for right plan with Cousins in fold

**METAIRIE, La.** (AP)—As Anthony Davis and DeMarcus Cousins hoisted up extra shots near one another after practice, Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry stood in a far corner of the club's practice gym, trying to explain why New Orleans hasn't won in three games since the All-Star big men became teammates.

"We have to become more consistent, and the only way you can become more consistent, I think, is that you've got to consistently have the same people out there so that you're learning the ins and outs of a system and learning the ins and outs of each other," Gentry said Monday.

"I do feel good about the progress we've made the last three games, and I think we're just going to continue to get better," Gentry added. "Unfortunately for us, we've got to do it on the fly. That's really tough to do in some situations."

The trade that brought in Cousins last week sent three guards—Tyreke Evans, Buddy Hield and Langston Galloway—to the Kings. New Orleans then added two free agent guards—Hollis Thompson and Jarrett Jack—to the regular rotation in the past week.

"We've just got to stay with it," Pelicans forward Solomon Hill said. "Minutes change for people, and we have new roles that we have to learn."

That seems to be the case for everyone but Davis and Cousins. Davis has averaged 35.3 points and 10 rebounds in the past three games. Cousins has averaged 23.3 points and 13 rebounds despite being limited to less than 30 minutes per game by foul trouble. During a loss at Oklahoma City on Sunday night, Cousins had 31 points and 10 rebounds in only 21 minutes before fouling out.

However, Gentry has noticed instances when Davis and Cousins may be trying too hard to defer to one another.

"They are producing in the team concept, but unfortunately right now, after three games, they're much better when one or the other one is off the court," Gentry said. "We have to find a way to make that work when both of them are on the court."

That might not be an issue on Wednesday night, when Cousins is expected to serve a one-game suspension for receiving his 18th technical foul this season Sunday night in Oklahoma City. He'll only play if the league rescinds that technical on appeal from the club.

Cousins' arrival also seems to have affected point guard Jrue Holiday's game in unexpected ways. Holiday averaged 21.4 points and eight assists in the 10 games before the trade. Since, he has averaged 10 points, six assists and 5.3 turnovers.

Davis said part of Holiday's problem is that "he's looking to be a pass-first point guard."

"We don't need him to come out and try to be a guy who's getting 15 assists. That's not who he is," Davis said. "He's a great scorer and a great defender. ... When you've got two guys that you want to give them the ball as much as possible, you just overthink a lot."

# NFL teams get jump start on franchise tags

By ARNIE STAPLETON
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

AP
In this Nov. 20, 2016, file photo, Arizona Cardinals outside linebacker Chandler Jones, left, hits Minnesota Vikings quarterback Sam Bradford as he tries to pass during the second half of an NFL football game, in Minneapolis.

Le'Veon Bell, Chandler Jones, Melvin Ingram and Kawann Short didn't have to wait until Wednesday's deadline to get franchise tagged.

And a person with knowledge of the details said the New York Giants have told defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul that he, too, will get the franchise tag. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Giants didn't announce the decision.

The Giants have to designate Pierre-Paul a franchise player by 4 p.m. ET on Wednesday. He will earn roughly $17 million this season unless the team reaches a long-term agreement by July 15.

The Steelers placed their exclusive rights franchise tag on Bell on Monday, the same day the Panthers, Cardinals and Giants applied their non-exclusive franchise tags to keep their stars from becoming free agents.

This buys the teams and players until mid-July to reach agreement on new long-term contracts.

Otherwise, they'll play on one-year deals and make the average of the top five players at their position in 2017.

While only the Steelers can negotiate with Bell, other teams can negotiate with Pierre-Paul, Short and Jones. However, the compensation required — two first-round draft picks — is a strong deterrent.

The biggest superstar to get franchise tagged last year was linebacker Von Miller, who received the exclusive rights franchise tag from the Broncos shortly after his MVP performance in Super Bowl 50.

That set up a stalemate that often turned contentious until the sides agreed to a record-shattering deal at the deadline that was worth $114.5 million over six seasons and included more guaranteed money — $70 million — than any non-quarterback in NFL history.

The newly franchise-tagged players could make similar big splashes at their positions — or could find themselves playing on one-year franchise tenders instead.

Bell was the first player in NFL history to average 100 yards rushing and 50 yards receiving in 2016. Pittsburgh general manager Kevin Colbert said earlier this month the Steelers intend to keep Bell in black and yellow indefinitely. If the sides don't agree on a long-term deal Bell's salary for 2017 would likely top $12 million.

A long-term deal for the 25-year-old running back isn't without risk, however. Twice suspended for violating the league's drug policy, Bell has been unable to finish the Steelers' final game in each of the past three seasons because of injuries.

The Panthers' tag of Short, worth about $15 million, is the latest move to keep their defensive line together. They also re-signed defensive end Wes Horton to a two-year deal Monday, a day after re-signing defensive end Mario Addison to a three-year contract.

All three were set for free agency.

## Small-school players ready for biggest test at NFL combine

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—Connor Harris and Krishawn Hogan are ready to answer questions at this week's NFL scouting combine.

Sure, they can recite impressive small-school resumes to anyone who wonders how two relatively unknown players made it to the league's second-biggest offseason stage.

They can show coaches, scouts and general managers that they can perform in person the same way they did on tape. They're even ready for another round of where's that school, should anyone ask.

Harris, college football's career tackles leader, played at Division II Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, near St. Louis. Hogan won an NAIA national championship at Marian University in Indianapolis.

Now comes the hard part—proving they're worthy of being drafted in April.

"You've got to go in and show you can compete at a high level," Harris said. "You want to perform the best you can, and I want to leave with no regrets."

Harris, a linebacker, and Hogan, a receiver, know this is neither the time nor the place to become awe struck.

Here, it's easy to lose focus amid the seemingly endless poking and prodding of medical checks, early morning wakeup calls, long nights of interviews, critical psychological tests and the pressure of performing on cue.

Anyone who's been through it knows how grueling it is for the roughly 330 invitees.

But for small-school guys, the atmosphere can become daunting if they let it.

"When I first got there, you did wonder (if you belonged), I think that's a natural thing," Hogan said, referring to his experience in the NFLPA Collegiate Bowl. "But once you put the pads on, it's not like that. You go 100 mph or you look bad."

Harris had a similar experience at the Senior Bowl, where he played and practiced in front of bigger crowds than he had in college.

Those all-star games have given both players a confidence boost that is only rivaled by their supporting cast.

Harris and his wife moved to Indy in January so he could train full time with about a dozen other NFL prospects at St. Vincent Sports Performance's NFL training program.

Hogan also trains there and has been balancing workouts with fatherhood and sleepless nights after his first child, Krishawn Jr., was born Feb. 18.

"He came a couple of weeks early, but it's been a great few days," Hogan said.

Both are intriguing prospects.

Harris lacks prototypical NFL size, at 5-foot-11, 242 pounds, but possesses strong productivity.

He finished with 633 tackles, more than any player who has played college football. He ran for seven touchdowns in 2014 and 2015, averaging 6.6 yards on 50 carries, and punted 19 times in college with a 38.8-yard average while pinning six inside the 20.

The former high school quarterback-fullback-safety also returned a punt and a kickoff at Lindenwood, and last year he was clocked at 4.57 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

"That's what they've told me, the more you can do the better opportunity you have," Harris said.

Hogan has a similar story.

After leaving Division II Walsh University in Canton, Ohio, and returning to his hometown, he matured into a star.

At 6-3, 224 pounds, Hogan has reportedly run a sub-4.4 in the 40. Those are the kinds of numbers scouts crave.

He has the stats, too. Hogan finished his career with 263 receptions, 4,395 yards and 42 touchdown catches and 25 TD runs. During Marian's 2015 title-winning season, he had 101 catches for 1,824 yards and 31 total touchdowns—16 through the air, 15 on the ground.

## Steelers sign Brown to new deal, place franchise tag on Bell

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Pittsburgh Steelers general manager Kevin Colbert stressed earlier this month one of the team's biggest goals during the offseason was to make wide receiver Antonio Brown and running back Le'Veon Bell vital parts of the organization "for life."

Done and well, on its way to being done.

The Steelers signed Brown to a new five-year contract on Monday, following through on a promise the club made last summer to take care of the perennial All-Pro as soon as he had just one season left on the six-year deal he signed in 2012.

The team also placed an exclusive rights franchise tag on Bell, opening the negotiating window to reach a long-term agreement with him by the start of training camp.

Brown's new contract runs through 2021 and will pay him over $72 million and makes him one of the highest paid non-quarterbacks in the league. Brown celebrated by posting a picture of himself with agent Drew Rosenhaus then later added another one with his signature phrase "Business is Boomin' ."

The 28-year-old Brown is one of just two players in NFL history to catch at least 100 passes in four consecutive seasons, including 106 receptions for 1,284 yards and 12 touchdowns for the Steelers in 2016 as the team won the AFC North and made it all the way to the AFC championship game before falling to New England.

The new contract more than doubles the six-year, $42 million contract Brown signed in 2012, one that turned into one of the better bargains in the NFL when Brown morphed from sixth-round flyer to star.

His high profile hasn't come without the occasional pitfall. He drew a strong rebuke from coach Mike Tomlin after livestreaming from the locker room following Pittsburgh's playoff victory over Kansas City, a violation of the league's social media policy.

Brown apologized for the misstep. Colbert and team president Art Rooney II have no concerns about Brown's occasional eccentricities becoming an issue going forward.

Rooney called them "little annoyances, with the emphasis on little" shortly after the AFC title game loss to New England.

The same goes for Bell, who could have become a free agent next month, but instead will work with the team on a new contract before the July 15 cutoff after the team used the exclusive rights franchise tag.

The 25-year-old led the NFL in average yards from scrimmage last season and became the first player in NFL history to average at least 100 yards rushing and 50 yards receiving per game.

If Pittsburgh can't sign Bell to a new deal by the middle of July, he will make the average salary of the top five running backs in the league in 2017.

While Bell has been productive when available, he's been suspended twice for violating the league's substance abuse policy and was unable to finish Pittsburgh's final game of the season in each of the past three years because of injuries.

Colbert said earlier this month the club is not worried about Bell's injury history or maturity as he enters his prime.

"We have no reservations about Le'Veon," Colbert said. "Not his durability or his ability. He's grown, I think, tremendously off the field. And I think, I hope, he continues to grow in those areas. But there's no hesitation to having him be with us, hopefully, for his whole career."

# Tebow learns from Jacksonville neighbor Daniel Murphy

**PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla.** (AP)—After struggling in the Arizona Fall League last year, New York Mets prospect Tim Tebow turned his attention to his hometown of Jacksonville for some help and inspiration.

Washington second baseman Daniel Murphy, a former Met, also lives in the north Florida city.

"We became friends and went up to a place by our houses and trained a lot. He's as much as an addict for sports as I am," Tebow said Monday before hitting nine batting practice home runs during his first spring training workout. "Even Thanksgiving morning, we were out there hitting before he had to go back to his wife and his family. He was begging for a couple of hours (of sports). That's how addicted he is, but it's also how helpful he was to me."

AP

Former NFL quarterback and New York Mets outfielder Tim Tebow works during a spring training baseball practice Monday, Feb. 27, 2017, in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

The 29-year-old Tebow, the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner and a former NFL quarterback, signed a minor league contract last year Sept. 8 and hopes to make it to the major leagues as an outfielder. Tebow played as a junior at Nease High School in Ponte Vedra Beach, where he hit .494 and earned all-state honors. He then concentrated on football, which led him to the University of Florida.

"He's someone who's extremely analytical, so that also helps to make him a really good coach," Tebow said of Murphy. "He thinks through a lot of the game and processes and situations. So that's very helpful to someone who's very new at it."

Tebow homered on the first pitch in his first game since high school last Sept. 28 as part of New York's instructional league team.

However, he hit just .194 and struck out 20 times in 62 at-bats for the AFL's Scottsdale Scorpions.

"It's so much about how you're able to handle things mentally, and that's not just the highs, it's also the lows," the left-handed hitter said. "Baseball can really exploit that if you're not ready for it - to be ready for the droughts and be able to handle the highs and lows. I think I was 0 for my first 13 (in Arizona), so I was like, 'OK, that's going to happen.' But I'm going to bounce back, and I think I was able to do that."

Tebow said similar poor results as a member of the New York Jets in 2012 also were part of a learning process.

"I'm grateful for the highs there—which weren't really many—but for a lot of the lows," said Tebow, who was released after one season with the Jets in which he threw just eight passes and rushed 32 times. "It was not necessarily the most fun situation, but there were so many things I learned. Everything happens for a reason; that situation happened for a reason. I learned from it. I'm grateful for it. I can honestly say that."

# Nicklaus says Woods' status is puzzling

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.** (AP)—Jack Nicklaus says he was "painting a picture" when he suggested after a practice round with Tiger Woods at the 1996 Masters that Woods had the game to win at least 10 green jackets.

He referred to Woods as a "puzzle" on Sunday at the Honda Classic.

In an interview before making an appearance in the NBC Sports broadcast booth, Nicklaus was raving about the growing number of young players who can win major championships. He said they learned to win because Woods no longer was dominant as he recovered from a litany of injuries.

"And now, I don't know about Tiger," Nicklaus said. "That is the biggest puzzle to me that I know. I just don't know where he is and where his mind is. I don't know."

Woods missed the cut at Torrey Pines in his 2017 debut, then flew halfway around the world to Dubai and withdrew after a 77 with back spasms. Woods withdrew from the Genesis Open at Riviera, hosted by his foundation, and this week's Honda Classic.

He canceled an interview at Riviera, with his agent saying doctors had advised that Woods limit all activities.

Nicklaus referenced a quote from Woods' agent, Mark Steinberg, that a press conference would yield no answers to his health.

"I think he's absolutely right," Nicklaus said. "You're going to ask him the same exact questions, it'll be the same exact answers that he had before. And I think from his standpoint, he'd be tired of answering them."

Nicklaus and Woods long have been linked, from the time Woods posted a chart in his room showing a timeline of Nicklaus achieving various mileposts in golf, mostly as an amateur. As a professional, Woods was on pace to break Nicklaus' record 18 majors until his fourth knee surgery in 2008 following the U.S. Open, his 14th and final major.

A scandal in his personal life unfolded a year later, followed by more leg injuries and then three back surgeries.

Woods has played in only 24 majors since the 2008 U.S. Open.

## TSUNAMI

*From Page 28*

mers are excited to train and compete," Kimura said.

Captain Nelson Batallones leads the 11 Tsunami Saipan swimmers heading to Tokyo today and is joined on the squad by vice captain Aika Watanabe and Sophia Gauran, Juhn Tenorio, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Nanaka Watanabe, Isaiah Aleksenko, Hans Xu, Ashley and Aasish Dangol, and Maria Batallones, and team manager Yuko Kimura.

All 11 Tsunami Saipan swimmers will race in the opening day of the Tokyo Sprint (25-meter pool) with Nelson and Maria, Tenorio, Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Xu, and Gauran competing in the 50m freestyle event. Aasish, Aika, Nanaka, and Ashley will do the 100m IM qualifying races, while Aleksenko is entered in both the 100M and 50m freestyle events.

In the second and final day of the short course, Nelson, Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, and the Dangol siblings will participate in the qualifying heats of the 50m butterfly, while Tenorio, Xu, and Aika will race in the 50m backstroke. Gauran, Nanaka, and Maria will join the 50m breaststroke qualifiers.

Hiro Kimura is expecting Tsunami Saipan swimmers to bring home at least three gold medals and two silvers and two bronzes. The head coach also would like to see Tsunami Saipan members appearing in the finals of nine races.

## D&Q

*From Page 28*

on their offense early in the game, D&Q/CTSI picked up its scoring late in the first quarter to end the period with a double-digit lead, 22-8. D&Q/CTSI had a balance attack in the first 10 minutes of play with six of the seven players who showed up for the match making it to the board.

Edong Echaves, who came off the bench and tallied D&Q/CTSI's last 3 points in the opening canto, added 7 in the second and drew enough help from his teammates to double up Mobil at the break, 48-24.

D&Q/CTSI's advantage ballooned to as much as 26 in the first few minutes of the third period before Mobil made headway and brought the lead down to 3. However, D&Q/CTSI got its second wind in the closing minutes of the third, thanks to Ariel Jinang, Ramsa Tenepere, and Ferdie de la Torre's baskets, to regain the double-digit spread, 58-48. D&Q/CTSI was never threatened after that to take its second win in six games.

Six D&Q/CTSI players finished in twin digits with Echavez leading the way with his 15 points. Joe Santos chipped in 14, de la Torre and Jinang had 13 each, and Tenepere and Fujihara contributed 11 apiece. Alvin Almario paced Mobil with his 14 markers, while Edwin Torres was the other double-figure scorer for the losing squad with 12.

Torres also hit twin digits in their 81-48 demolition of Konstrak Builders last Thursday after firing a team-high 17 points.

The victory was Mobil's first after dropping its first three. Alain Gomez added 16, while Patrick Pelisamen and Almario logged 12 and 11, respectively.

With Mobil spreading the wealth, it controlled the game right from the get-go and never relinquished the big lead after taking a 23-10 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

Konstrak Builders absorbed its sixth loss in as many matches as only Ronald Bernardo drilled more than two field goals for the squad to record a game-high 30 markers.

### Thursday Game

**Mobil/COAG 81** – Torres 17, Gomez 16, Pelisamen 12, Almario 11, Muna 10, Agustin 9, Alves 7, Cisnero 2,

**Konstrak Builders 48** – Bernardo 30, Ayson 4, Espejo 4, David 3, Alfonso 3, Lenon 2, Lansang 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 23-10, 48-24, 66-35, 81-48.

### Monday Game

**D&Q/CTSI 80** – Echavez 15, Santos 14, de la Torre 13, Jinang 13, Tenepere 11, Fujihara 11, Asaivao 3.

**Mobil/COAG 54** – Almario 14, Torres 12, Sison 9, Pelisamen 9, Agustin 4, Cisnero 2, Aguilar 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 22-8, 41-27, 58-48, 80-54.

## BLUE

*From Page 28*

### JUNIOR LEAGUE
### Falcons 23, Bank of Saipan 4

Defending champions Falcons pounded Bank of Saipan in the first game in the division.

The Falcons earned the easy win after only four and a half innings. Eighth runs each in the second and fourth inning sealed the deal for the Falcons, who also played great defense after shutting down Bank of Saipan in the first three innings.

Froilan Camacho, who went down on a 1-3 putout play in his first at-bat, was perfect in his last three trips at the plate and scored three runs and two RBIs. Nickson Smith was only 2-for-4, but had a two-run double in the second inning, while Frances Kumich went 2-for-3 and registered two runs and two RBIs. Aven Evangelista scored the most runs for the defending champions with five despite going 1-for-4 at the plate. He also pitched in no relief, giving up only three hits while striking out six.

### Braves 8, Enforcers 6

The Braves pulled off a come-from-behind win against the Enforcers in the second match in the division.

A seven-run top of the sixth inning turned things around for the Braves, who were staring a 1-6 deficit after five complete innings.

The Braves got three earned runs, two off passed balls, and one from the Enforcers error and then stole home once to grab the lead from the Enforcers after six complete innings, 8-6. The Braves kept the lead and the win as Levequel Iguel struck out two batters at the bottom of the seventh and left an Enforcers runner stranded at second base. The Braves got the other out by beating an Enforcers runner at second base.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

| Atlantic Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 38 | 22 | .633 | — |
| Toronto | 36 | 24 | .600 | 2 |
| New York | 24 | 36 | .400 | 14 |
| Philadelphia | 22 | 37 | .373 | 15½ |
| Brooklyn | 9 | 49 | .155 | 28 |
| **Southeast Division** | | | | |
| Washington | 34 | 23 | .596 | — |
| Atlanta | 33 | 26 | .559 | 2 |
| Miami | 27 | 33 | .450 | 8½ |
| Charlotte | 25 | 34 | .424 | 10 |
| Orlando | 22 | 38 | .367 | 13½ |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| Cleveland | 41 | 17 | .707 | — |
| Indiana | 31 | 29 | .517 | 11 |
| Chicago | 30 | 29 | .508 | 11½ |
| Detroit | 28 | 31 | .475 | 13½ |
| Milwaukee | 26 | 32 | .448 | 15 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

| Southwest Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Antonio | 45 | 13 | .776 | — |
| Houston | 42 | 19 | .689 | 4½ |
| Memphis | 35 | 25 | .583 | 11 |
| Dallas | 24 | 35 | .407 | 21½ |
| New Orleans | 23 | 37 | .383 | 23 |
| **Northwest Division** | | | | |
| Utah | 37 | 22 | .627 | — |
| Oklahoma City | 34 | 25 | .576 | 3 |
| Denver | 26 | 33 | .441 | 11 |
| Portland | 24 | 34 | .414 | 12½ |
| Minnesota | 24 | 36 | .400 | 13½ |
| **Pacific Division** | | | | |
| x-Golden State | 50 | 9 | .847 | — |
| L.A. Clippers | 36 | 23 | .610 | 14 |
| Sacramento | 25 | 35 | .417 | 25½ |
| L.A. Lakers | 19 | 41 | .317 | 31½ |
| Phoenix | 18 | 41 | .305 | 32 |

x-clinched playoff spot

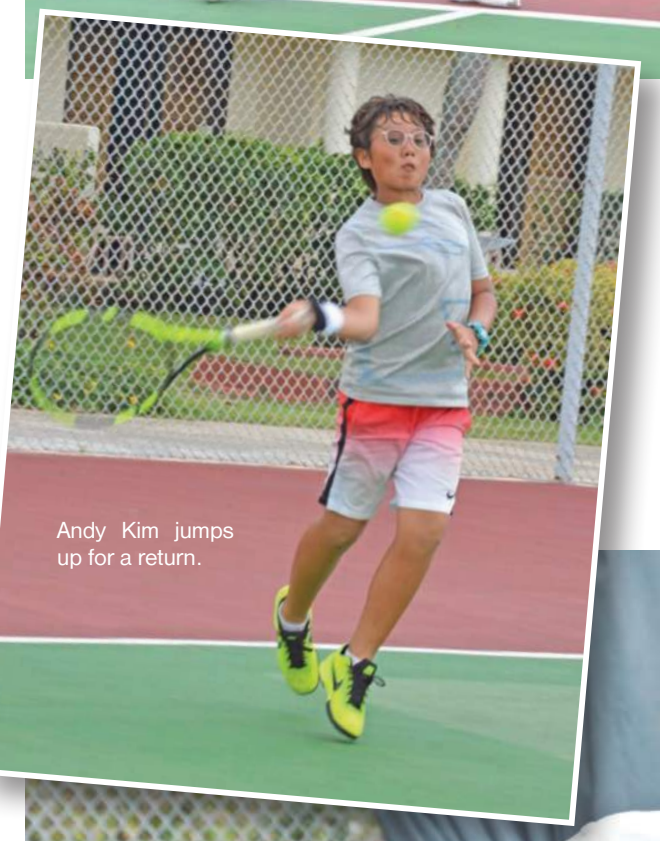
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic

**PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO**

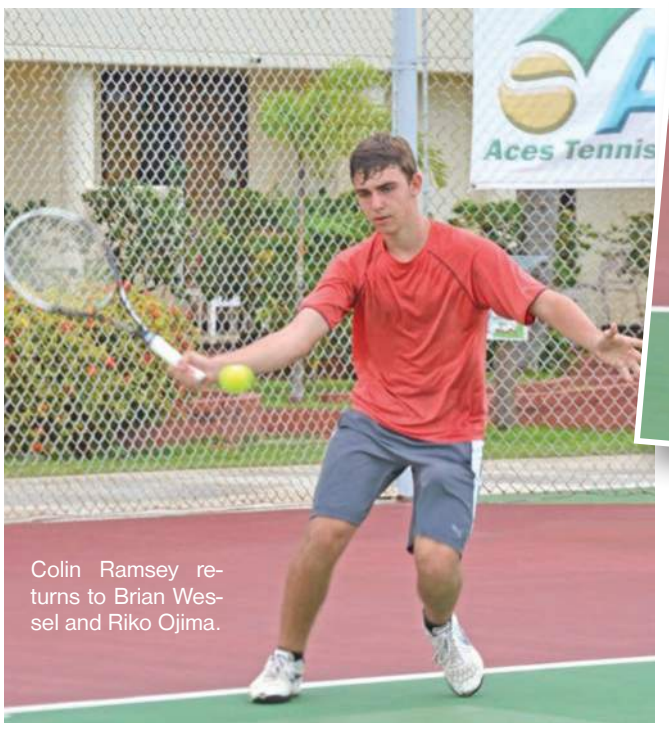
Brian Wessel goes for a baseline return during his and Riko Ojima mixed-up doubles game against Andy Kim and Colin Ramsey in the 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic held last month at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

Riko Ojima makes a backhand return.



Andy Kim jumps up for a return.

Vincent Tudela serves to Ken Song during their boys U16 singles title game.



Colin Ramsey returns to Brian Wessel and Riko Ojima.

Isabel Heras receives from the baseline a serve from Tania Tan during their women's open singles match.

J.C. Ferrer, left, and Anika Camacho shake hands after their girls U12 singles duel.

**Despite cold Curry, Durant and Warriors beat 76ers**

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Sports

**NFL teams get jump start on franchise tags**

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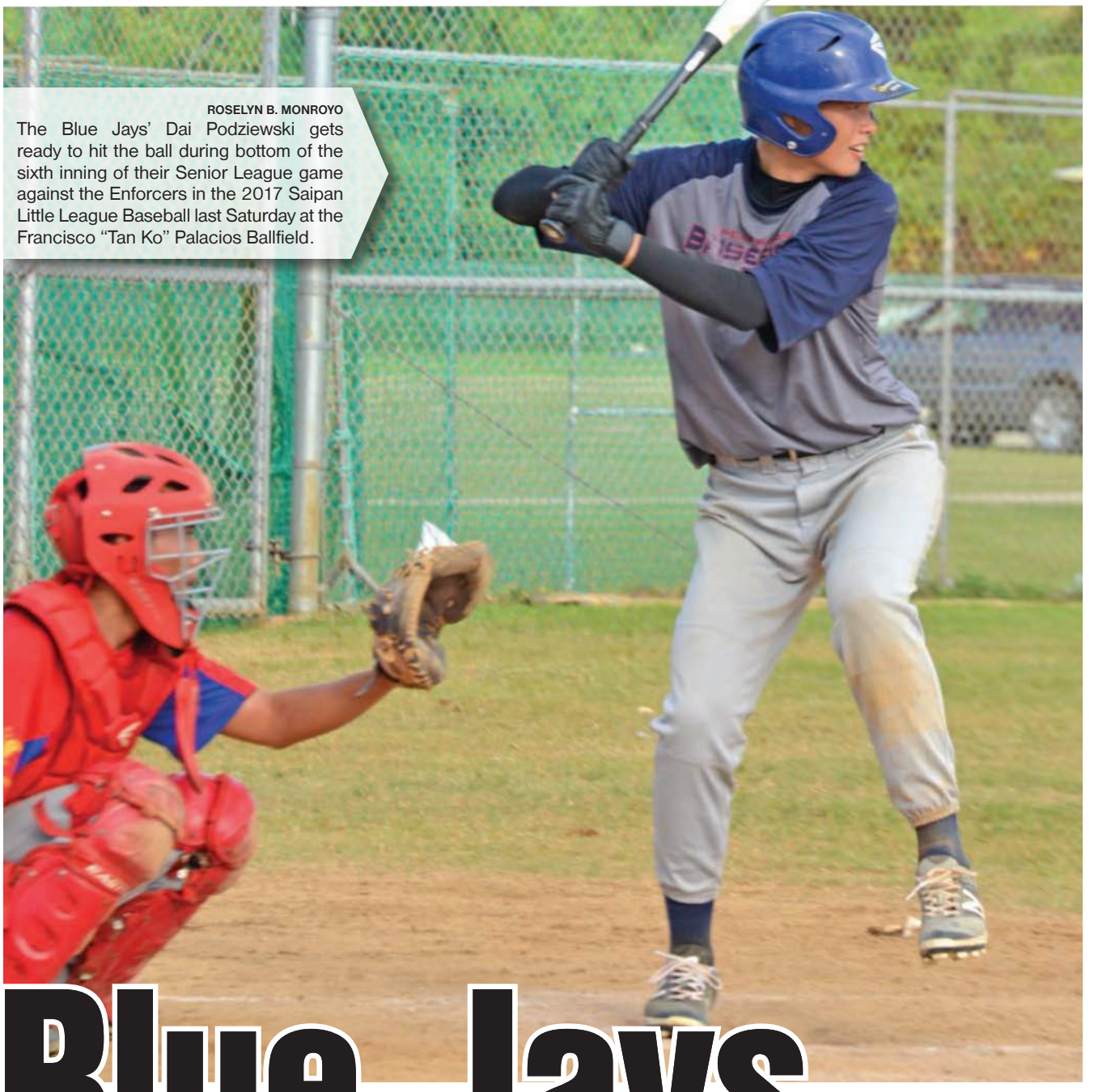

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Blue Jays' Dai Podziewski gets ready to hit the ball during bottom of the sixth inning of their Senior League game against the Enforcers in the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

# Blue Jays edge Enforcers in Senior League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Blue Jays outclassed the Enforcers, 8-7, during the lone Senior League game in the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Relief pitcher Jayden Tenorio, who came in for Sho Taguchi at the top of the fifth, threw a one-hitter in the last three innings and struck out four to foil the Enforcers' comeback bid and hand the Blue Jays the victory. Tenorio also hit an RBI triple and reached home plate off a wild pitch at the bottom of the fifth to put the Blue Jays back on the lead after the Enforcers grabbed the upper hand, 6-5.

The Enforcers, who faced a 2-4 deficit after three complete innings, scored three runs from the Blue Jays errors and got an RBI single from Leo Salalila at the top of the fourth to take the driver's seat. However, the Enforcers fell short in the end as it faltered against Tenorio's steady pitching.

Andres Camacho scored three off the Blue Jays eight runs off his 2-for-2 performance at the plate, while Kelvin Foreman, Austin Benavente, Randy Tudela, and Dai Podziewski also reached home for the winning squad.

See BLUE on Page 26

# D&Q/CTSI snaps skid, routs Mobil

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

D&Q/CTSI got out of its slump following an 80-54 victory over Mobil/COAG in the nightcap on the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The win ended D&Q/CTSI's three-game losing skid and improved the squad's record to 2-4 for fifth place in the team standings in Pool B. D&Q/CTSI has one game left (against Star Water) in the round-robin regular season and regardless of the results of its final match, the team is likely to face one of the Top 4 teams in Pool A in the first phase of the single-elimination playoffs.

After both teams struggled

See D&Q on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
D&Q/CTSI's Ferdie de la Torre pulls up for a jumper against two Mobil/COAG defenders during the second quarter of their game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Monday the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Aasish Dangol is among the 11 Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan members heading to Japan today to compete in this weekend's Tokyo Junior Sprint 2017 at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena.

# Tsunami Saipan leaves for Tokyo

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's delegates to the Tokyo Junior Sprint 2017 will leave the island today to join more than 100 swim clubs in the weekend tournament that will be held at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said the club is among the 122 swim teams that will race in the March 4 and 5 competition and their 11 swimmers are included in the 3,500 participants in the 50m and 100m freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, and breaststroke, and the 100m individual medley events

"It's the one of the biggest tournaments in Japan. We will be staying at the Tokyo Sports and Academic Center BumB and will have our training for two days at the Water Mates Swim Club's pool in Yokohoma. It is the one of most traditional and historical swimming clubs in Japan. There were four Olympians who came from the club. Tsunami Saipan sent a few swimmers to train there during summer. Our swim-

See TSUNAMI on Page 26